JOHN BULL

Vol. XII. No. 310 | SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1912. | ONE PENNY

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For meaning of this No. see Page ii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

A
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SONG

WORDS AND MUSIC

IS GIVEN WITH
THIS WEEK'S

MRS. BULL

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Dunsford Road, Wimbledon Park.
The Avenue, Chingford.
Maud Street, Rhyl,
and Elsewhere.

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comprise the following: Set of 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs, Georgian period, 14 guineas; Georgian Sideboard to match, 11 guineas; dining table to match, extending, £7 10s.; Bookcase to match, 6 guineas; very massive oak Sideboard, £5 10s.; Overmantel to match, £2 5s.; Extending dining table, £2 10s.; 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs in carved oak, 40 guineas; Sideboard, very finely carved, in oak, to match, 12 guineas; 3 Chesterfield Settees, £3 10s. each; 6 very fine Lounge Club Divan easy chairs, 27s. 6d. each; Carved Oak Dining Table, 4 guineas; Carved Oak Overmantel, £2 10s.; Saddlebag suite, £4 15s.; another dining-room suite, £3 15s.; Massive carved oak Sideboard, with oxydised copper fittings, bevelled plate glass, 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs to match, extending dining table, heavy curb suite, £15 10s. the lot; similar set in fumigated oak, £13 10s.; 10 real Turkey carpets, about 9 by 12, at 7 guineas each: 4 Turkey carpets, about 9 ft. 6 ins. by 12 ft. 6 ins., £8 10s. each; 20 Turkey rugs, from 25s.; numerous carpets in Tapestry, Axminster and Velvet Pile, all sizes, in thoroughly good condition, to be sold without any reserve; a most elegant Grand Piano, 18 guineas; an upright Grand Piano, 12 guineas; another by Adolph Achumann, 18 guineas; another, by Carl Strauss, 22 guineas; several Grand Pianos by Broadwood, Emil Pauer, Collard and Collard, Bluthner, and Bechstein; 3 Hall Stands, 18s. 6d. each; hall chairs, from 7s. 6d.; and all necessary effects for completely furnishing Dining Rooms, Smoke Rooms, Libraries, Studies, etc., etc.

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The following claims have been received for our issues of March 23rd and April 6th:—

H. L. HARMAN, 7, Topaz Street, Fitzalan Street, Kennington, S.E. No. 191886. March 23rd.

G. E. WARD, 1, Raleano Road, Preston Road, Poplar, E. No. 536029. April 6th.

R. CURD, "Cranleigh," 3, Brooker Street, Hove. No. 86992. April 6th.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of April 13th:—

15870	178995	373990	552902	718618
28394	199183	385784	565759	717442
56682	214469	426748	569972	718392
70283	226434	454226	606679	735814
84007	254145	464942	622858	740484
102246	256331	477118	638732	754244
106963	270073	492761	656219	755371
125287	319658	503614	664255	755684
142270	340979	542238	696563	756973
157183	357907	597788	707107	757208

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED JUNE 8TH (PUBLISHED JUNE 6TH, 1912).

The John Bull League.

OBJECTS: To Stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to Create a Robust and Self-reliant Public Opinion; and to Promote a Common Sense Business Government for a Common Sense Business People.

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93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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MR. BOTTOMLEY

AT THE

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LANGHAM PLACE, LONDON, W.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

OUR MEETING.

On Saturday evening we shall be at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place. We do not anticipate being honoured by a very full report in the political Party press, one of the curses of which is that it subordinates news to views. We venture, however, to think that the meeting will form the starting point of a movement destined to leave a mark upon the history of the Twentieth Century, and the full force of which is little suspected by those who have for so long battened upon the simplicity and apathy of the man in the street.

THE SHOPS ACT.

We are pleased to remember that we were absolutely the only Member of the House of Commons to oppose this measure—which, even in its emasculated form, is already setting the country by the ears. When will the present Government learn to leave the people alone in the management of their own private affairs?

RED TAPE.

Another instance of the subordination of the Minister to the Permanent Official is furnished by the answer of Mr. Sydney Buxton to our suggestion that he should withhold the Passenger Certificates for pleasure steamers (now being applied for for the coming season), until either a fresh set of Regulations has been approved, or the owners have given an undertaking to increase the life-saving accommodation. "The Board"—oh, that "Board"!—says Mr. Buxton, "cannot require as a condition of granting a Passenger Certificate that a steamer should comply with conditions in excess of those laid down in the Rules and Regulations." Why not? Here is Mr. Buxton's answer: "In such a case the owner of a vessel could appeal to a Court of Survey." So far as we are concerned, he could appeal, and be—"blowed"!

"A PARLIAMENTARY JEST."

This is the way in which most of the newspapers describe our intervention in the discussion on Mr. Harold Smith's Bill to amend the Parliament Act. As a matter of fact, although not unconscious of the irony of the situation, we were genuinely desirous of helping the Government to make a clean breast of the Preamble fiction. Everybody knows that, so far as the present Parliament is concerned, Reform of the House of Lords is dead, and it is much better to say so plainly rather than go on "spoofing." As a matter of fact, many Ministerialists have thanked us for our action.

LABOUR'S LEADERS.

We are frequently amused, when running our eye over the House of Commons order paper, at the kind of question which Ramsay Macdonald and Keir Hardie are constantly addressing to Ministers. When they are not thinking of the forcible feeding of the Suffragettes, their minds are invariably thousands of miles away from the workers whom they are supposed to represent. Here, taken at random, is a specimen of Ramsay Macdonald's solicitude: "To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is now in a position to make a statement as to whether the Masai are moving northwards from the present territory." What on earth does the British working man care about the Masai, and whither they are moving? We suspect that, if consulted on the topic, he would in very terse language indicate what, in his opinion, is their proper objective.

MR. ISMAY.

Our strong Open Letter to Mr. Ismay has met with wide appreciation. In a few instances, however, we have received expressions of disapproval. The correctness of our view of his duty, as principal owner of the vessel, to remain on board until the humblest emigrant whose money the company had taken was placed in safety in the boats, is fully confirmed by Admiral Mahan, the great United States naval authority—and that is good enough for us.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

"Titanic" Funds.

The collection of an enormous amount of money for the survivors of the *Titanic* is now assured, and we trust that the public will see that the survivors get it. What has not infrequently happened in regard to these big national funds is that, instead of the money going wholly (minus necessary expenses) to those whom the subscribers intended to benefit, it is held up and doled out according to the ideas of the trustees, the result being that after a certain number of years a very large portion of the capital remains in hand, to be diverted into other channels or loosely handled by a number of officials who live out of it. We have frequently called attention to this matter in regard to other funds.

A Suggestion.

One of our readers makes a very sensible suggestion, namely that all amounts subscribed should be pooled and then paid into the Post Office Savings Bank, to the personal credit, in agreed sums, of the various sufferers, subject to the condition that they should not be permitted to draw more than a given amount per week. We suggest that the Lord Mayor should confer with the Postmaster-General on the subject.

Answer to Prayer.

Up to the time of writing, we have not heard of any of our clerical friends and brothers mounting the pulpit to explain the prayer of Mr. Whiteley, the first-class steward, who was caught in a ship's rope as it uncoiled and thrown into the sea, where he presently saw a collapsible raft, "black with survivors," who would not let him get aboard. "Then," says he, "I confess I prayed that somebody on that raft might die, so that I might take his place, and somebody *did* die; then they let me on board." Now that the attention of learned theologians—say, the prelates who invent supplications to bring down rain and stop coal strikes—has been called to it, will they kindly enlighten us concerning this answer to prayer, which must seem to many people a somewhat startling illustration of the utterly unexpected. We should also like the views of the relatives of the man who so obligingly died.

Making an Impression.

An illustrated weekly scored a decided triumph by printing a photograph of a huge crowd, taken at some public function, consisting of 1,600 people, for the purpose of giving the public a concrete idea of the enormous number of persons who had lost their lives in the *Titanic*. We throw out to our contemporary the suggestion that they should publish a huge volume of 800 pages, in order to give the public an accurate impression of the number of persons who *last year alone* lost all they had paid into the Prudential Company.

Safety of the Sea.

Probably it has occurred to a very few people indeed, the *Titanic* catastrophe notwithstanding, how safe the sea really is. According to a statement which has been made in the House of Commons, six millions of passengers have crossed the Atlantic during the past ten years in "vessels chiefly British." Up to the end of last December, the fatalities to passengers on British ships, natural causes apart, are stated to have numbered nine only. On this showing, it seems safer to cross the Atlantic than the road at Hyde Park Corner or Ludgate Circus. That is no reason, however, why adequate life-saving appliances should not be provided.

To the Queen's Hall!

All roads lead to Langham Place on Saturday night.

So Simple!

Mr. Sydney Buxton thinks impracticable our suggestion, that every ship passenger should on embarking receive a ticket giving the number and position of the lifeboat to which he is assigned in the event of emergency, although he has been good enough to promise it his best consideration. Invited by us to state a serious objection to the idea, the President of the bogus Board gave evidence of profound thought. "Suppose," said he, "one of the boats became disabled during a storm, what would happen to the poor women and children who had been assigned to it?" We do not care to disclose every detail of a Business Government, but we may observe that to meet such an emergency every vessel would be required to carry two or three spare lifeboats, which, upon being requisitioned in such an event as Mr. Buxton presupposes, would bear the same numbers as those whose places they had taken. And yet the faithful Party hacks seemed to think that their Minister had evolved a fatal argument against our proposal! As a matter of fact, the plan is in principle, and to a large extent in detail, already adopted by the Japanese.

Politicians First—Administrators Afterwards.

One has only to follow what are called the "big" debates in Parliament to understand how it is that our Ministers have so little practical control over their various Departments. No one, of course, could object to the Prime Minister himself introducing the Home Rule Bill, but there was something incongruous in the idea of the Postmaster-General (who ought to be busy getting the telephone service into order) being selected to wind up the debate on the first reading. Then we had Mr. Churchill, torn away from his Admiralty duties, moving the second reading, and before this stage is concluded, we shall doubtless see two or three other heads of Departments foaming at the mouth on the wrongs of Ireland, intoxicated by the applause of their Party—whilst the permanent officials and staffs of the Departments over which they are supposed to preside are playing Old Harry with the affairs of the nation. Whatever else may be said about Mr. Burns, he does stick to his post. The only Ministers who ought to be permitted to speak on the Bill are Mr. Asquith, Mr. Birrell, and the "maid-of-all-work," Mr. Hobhouse. The others should preserve their oratory for occasions connected with their own offices. Then they would have some "claim to be listened to."

Transatlantic Wining and Dining.

Although we should be reluctant to suggest that the above in any way bears upon the *Titanic* disaster, we are heartily in sympathy with the protest of our contemporary, *Syren and Shipping*, against the habit of passengers on ocean liners of forcing hospitality upon the captains and officers. "Wining and dining" has become a crying evil in connection with transatlantic passengers—and we are not sure that it does not extend to the Board of Trade surveyors when they go aboard to make their inspections.

Grateful and Comforting.

We are indebted to Mr. E. S. P. Haynes, an eminent London solicitor, for a kindly tribute in the *Eye Witness*. After flatteringly describing our intelligence as "a national asset," and pointing out that for the past two years we have been agitating for better "Board" of Trade regulations, Mr. Haynes comments upon the time wasted in Parliament in the "silly game of Party controversy," and suggests that "the Party squabble" might be limited to certain hours, "so as to leave proper time for the decent fulfilling of executive obligations." Our contemporary also publishes a trenchant and timely article on the mythical Board of Trade.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

CHILD'S-PLAY.

The irritating advertisement of a child's play, called "Peter Pan," by means of a graven image in Kensington Gardens, provides a bad precedent. Effigies have hitherto been restricted to dead busybodies and historical heroes, mostly in caricature. But now we are to be invited to honour people who never lived. Indeed, one scribe wants a statue of Becky Sharp, presumably as the nucleus of an outdoor Chamber of Horrofs. The word statuesque will soon have to receive a new definition in the dictionaries.

NOTHING LIKE—PRINTING.

In these days of general grumbling and depression it is refreshing to find that at least one industry is thriving; we refer to that of printing and publishing. Like those who cater for our stomachs, we presume those who supply our journalistic pabulum are always "on velvet." The greatest catastrophe, the most horrible murder, a big victory or defeat in war—everything comes alike into the newspaper printer's mesh. These reflections occur to us on perusing the romantic history of Odhams, Ltd., which appears elsewhere in this issue. With a printing turnover which has more than doubled itself in four years and a publishing one which has increased twelve times during the same period, one firm at least has no cause to curse either Mr. Lloyd George or the British Government.

PERSECUTION BEYOND THE TOMB.

We dislike Convocation's idea of having one burial service for the good and another for the wicked, especially when to be unbaptised is to be taken as evidence of wickedness. As children are not usually consulted with regard to their baptism, it seems hard that they should be stigmatised for the omissions of their parents and guardians. Perhaps one form of burial is as efficacious as another, but it seems ungracious to refuse soothing words or comfortable phrases in the presence of death. It is petty annoyances of this kind which go far to make the Church unpopular.

THE CRIME OF GENEROSITY.

It seems rather hard that a generous man should be arrested for distributing coins broadcast in the streets. The idea apparently is that giving away money to strangers is in itself a proof of madness. At this rate, it will soon be an offence to yield to any charitable instinct, and then one of the chief occupations of half-penny papers will be gone. We really think that a little obstruction might well be pardoned in favour of a green-coated gentleman who takes pleasure in scattering gold.

FOOLISH PHILATELISTS.

A congress of those idle people who devote their energies to sticking bits of paper into albums has been solemnly protesting against the automatic stamping of letters. The fear is that this convenience will limit the output of postage-stamps. But the number of existing stamps is now so large that a museum would be required to hold every specimen, so that stamp-collectors ought to be grateful for an innovation which would reduce their labours—and add value to their collections.

A REVISED CLASSIC.

A contemporary credits Sir William Lever with the authorship of the ancient classic that fortune knocks once at everybody's door. We beg to add, however, that it is misfortune which kicks a hole in it.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

Remember the Queen's Hall is in Langham Place, which is a continuation of Regent Street, on the north side of Oxford Street.

"DISLOYALTY TO GOD."

Because the chairman of the Torpoint District Council has invited his colleagues to accompany him to the local chapel he usually attends, the Rev. M. May, vicar of the parish, has thought fit to address the Church of England members by private circular, asserting that such a place of worship is "contrary to the teaching of and the duty to the faith of God and His Holy Church," and that to attend it is "an act of disloyalty to God and misleading to others who desire to be faithful." Being interpreted, this means that the parson is jealous of the pastor; also that he is a bigot of bigots. Think of the Creator being exclusively a member of the Church of England!

BAR OR CAFE?

A very interesting experiment—and for many reasons we trust it will be a successful one—has been made by the landlord of the Windmill Inn at Cricklewood. He has obtained the sanction of the Willesden magistrates to abolish his drinking bars and turn his place into a refreshment house on the lines of a Continental *café*. Though it may be admitted that the weather in this country does not permit of the permanent open-air *café*, and drinking under an awning on the pavement is impracticable in most of our cities, nobody seems to have thought out a type of establishment which, by means of a sliding frontage, could open to the street in summer and close in winter. As a system, the public bar is neither very comfortable nor very cleanly. No doubt the prejudice of the Britisher against being seen drinking in a public house is against the reform of the pub. as we know it to-day. But the open front and the transparent window would get rid of a vast amount of secret drinking and drunkenness. They would acclimatise us to the idea that there is really nothing very shocking in being perceived drinking a glass of beer—or even two!

"H. H. REDGRAVE, VICAR."

Signed as above, a printed letter has been widely circulated from St. Paul's Vicarage, Burslem, drawing attention to what the vicar has done for the people during the strike. "I do not ask for any reward in return," he says, "except one little favour, and that is that everyone who has received any help or benefit through me at the Old Town Hall, shall write me a letter which I hope to keep as long as I live. I want young and old, children and grown-ups, to write me a letter telling me what they had to suffer, and what sort of help the Old Town Hall was in their time of need." This is one of the queerest things in its line which has come our way for many a day. "Do good by stealth and blush to find it fame" is evidently not a text by which our rev. friend sets much store; he wants hymns of praise and psalms of gratitude all to himself. It was certainly very kind of the good vicar to assist in the distribution of necessaries provided by public subscriptions, and when he has time, perhaps he will issue a balance sheet telling us all about it.

HOW TO GET THERE.

The nearest stations for the Queen's Hall on Saturday night are Oxford Circus and Portland Road. Motor-'buses pass within a stone's throw of the hall from all parts of London.

**"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

TEMPTATION.

While it may be true that the man who cannot stand temptation cannot stand anything, one gets somewhat of a shock on hearing that a firm like Messrs. Freeman, Hardy and Willis, who have paid 12½ per cent. to their shareholders for years past, should expose themselves to public rebuke by paying an "odd man" of 26 years of age, employed in one of their shops in Waterloo Road, Manchester, six shillings a week. This man was charged with making away with stock, and no doubt he had been stealing for some time. "We have discharged him several times," said the manager, "but he keeps asking and begging to be taken on again, so we find him a little work, such as running errands and cleaning windows." The question is, have Messrs. Freeman, Hardy and Willis employed all his time, and if so, how upon any view of business morality can they justify starving a man into dishonesty in this way?

A NOTTINGHAM METHODIST BANQUET.

A Methodist banquet of any sort is so novel an occurrence that it affords us more than ordinary delight to congratulate the Methodists of Nottingham on their recent banquet in honour of the Sheriff and Sheriffess, Mr. and Mrs. John Pycroft. The *menu* and list of wines is absent from the programme of proceedings now before us, but the banquet must have been *recherché*, because on the back it is announced that "This programme (1s.) admits one person," though how it was done for the money passes our comprehension. It seems to have been held after a meeting of Wesley trustees, who passed a resolution "thanking Mr. Pycroft for accepting the office of Sheriff, believing that by doing so he will accelerate the coming of the Lord."

"NO ENGLISHMAN NEED APPLY."

Here is another instance of the way the "No Englishman need apply" fever has taken hold of the Canadians. "Comfortable room and board for gentleman," says a woman advertising in a Toronto paper. "Use of 'phone, five minutes' walk from Canada foundry or Standard Sanitary. No Englishman need apply." She let lodgings to working men, and though her complaint against Englishmen was that the last two lodging with her "would come downstairs on a Sunday morning into the general parlor in a state of *déshabillé*," the chances are that they left because they couldn't stand the dirt. At any rate, the Toronto *Globe* points out that "the appearance of the landlady and her three children when our representative called was such that it would be hard for her to secure any boarders who had any antipathy to dirt and untidiness." Our contemporary has probably guessed it. Englishmen have a natural objection to lodgings where the landlady tries to economise the soap.

FRIDAY BILLS.

How can private Members wonder at the indifference with which they are treated by the Government when, having been successful in the ballot, they can make no better contributions to constructive statesmanship than the introduction of "Temperance" and other namby-pamby measures? The whole of Friday last was wasted in a stupid and ill-considered Bill relating to working men's clubs. In order to get it through its second reading, its promoter had to drop several of its principal provisions, and what was left was not worth five minutes' consideration. Had we been successful in the ballot, we think we should have introduced a little Bill of one clause, requiring passenger vessels to provide lifeboat accommodation for every soul on board, with a place in a numbered boat assigned to each passenger. And we guarantee we would have got it through.

THE SPEAKER SPEAKS.

The Speaker says he is confident that the House would rather listen to three speeches of twenty minutes than to one of sixty. But it all depends on whose. The trouble about most of the sixty-minutes speakers is not that they talk a long time, but that they say so precious little that we have not heard a thousand times before. On the other hand, as a famous bishop once said, a sermon may be both short and tedious.

A FIRST OFFENDER AT HASTINGS.

The Hastings magistrates have certainly "made an example," as the phrase goes, of William James Gower, the young Corporation clerk whom they recently sentenced for embezzling a sum of about £6. This young fellow, educated, refined, of "good character," and apparently popular, seems to have given way to drink after a severe attack of rheumatism. After a bout, he seems to have gone to his work in the Rates Department, and being unexpectedly called on to receive money at the counter, stole the amount under some sudden impulse on leaving for dinner, not returning for a week afterwards, when he "gave himself up." It was apparently a case of sudden and erratic impulse, and as the young man has never been in trouble previously, the magistrates might have applied the First Offenders' Act without impropriety. Even the prosecution requested the bench to take into consideration the young man's previous good character, but the magistrates preferred to inflict severe punishment. On all the facts, the case is certainly one in which the Home Secretary may well interfere to mitigate the sentence.

LEGAL CRUELTY.

Many correspondents have written protesting against the decision of Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane, that the flaunting by a husband of another woman in the very face of his wife—even to the extent of harbouring her in his home—does not amount to legal cruelty, and, incidentally, they all enquire when the Report of the Divorce Commission is to be published. What is more to the point is, will anything be done when the Report *is* published?

PEN PICTURES.

Four small pen pictures of the Queen's Hall meeting will appear next week, by Mr. Herbert Vivian, Mr. Theodore Dahle, Mr. Walter Moore, and Mr. Norman Tiptaft. They will be written quite independently of each other and without consultation, and will be published unedited.

ISRAEL ZANGWILL ON PARTY.

"But so far from realising that black may be white, your average voter seems to imagine that neither is ever even tempered; that his party is purest white, and the opposition party impurest black. That the other side reverses this colouring does not trouble him—it is merely due to the aforesaid sophistical faculty of proving black white. I once knew a man—no average voter he—who owned two comic papers, the one Radical, the other Conservative. How he must have chuckled as he planned the cartoons and settled the chiaroscuro! I tremble to think what would have happened if, by one of those *contretemps* which sometimes occur even in real life, the cartoons had got interchanged. And caricatures such as these influence the elections! The most childish nonsense, written in the picture language so dear to children! And on such ineptitudes the destinies of the nation are supposed to turn! 'Tis a comforting reflection, then, that the whole thing is so largely a farce, that the real axis of events is elsewhere—by no means a thing to grieve over."—(From "Without Prejudice.")

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

"MUTINY."

In the course of the proceedings against the seamen who refused to handle the *Olympic*, prosecuting counsel alleged that "aboard ship the authority of the master was almost autocratic, and the men must obey his commands." Supposing these men had discovered at the last moment that the *Olympic* was, in fact, a coffin ship, and that to sail in her was certain death to them and the passengers, does Mr. Raeburn mean to say that if the master ordered them to stay and sail they must sail? Such a statement of the law is simply preposterous.

"ALL'S WELL."

Though according to common rumour what may be called the Haldane Mission has broken down in parts, Mr. Asquith is kind enough to announce that the relations between Germany and ourselves have now reached a stage which enables matters of mutual interest to be discussed in a frank and friendly way—in the frank and friendly way, in fact, in which the two combatants in a coming prize fight meet to settle the amount of stakes and their respective shares of the gate-money.

HARDIEHOOD.

Mr. Keir Hardie says he "wants a revolutionary upheaval which will change the whole face of society." What we want is a revolutionary upheaval which will change the whole face of Mr. Keir Hardie. Queer how opinions differ!

WORSHIP OF THE FOX.

Apropos of recent remarks in our columns on the worship of the fox, here is an example sent us from a district we are asked not to identify. "Some young men in a village near here, where the ironstone pits and furnaces are the sole employment, found a fox in a field in which they were strolling, and gave chase. It seems to have been caught in a trap and was wounded, but managed to evade them. This came to the ears of a keeper, who reported it to the M.F.H., who summoned the men to his house, threatening them with pains and penalties endless, and said if he could have his way he would hound them from the country, and knowing no law could touch them, persuaded a member of the hunt who owns the pits and furnaces to make the men stand off for two weeks from their work, to which they were about to return after eight weeks' idleness owing to the strike."

HAVE YOU YOUR TICKET?

If not, call to-day, Box Office, Queen's Hall, Langham Place, or at 93, Long Acre, and secure it. A small quantity will be kept available till Saturday.

THE WORKING MAN.

Too old at 50, and a wife and family to keep.

THE JUDGE.

In his prime, age 80, with a nice little bit in the bank.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For stating, in an account of certain divorce proceedings, that when a witness came to London to stay at an hotel, she was surprised at meeting one of the parties "wearing a TRILBY HAT, *a* GREEN CAP, *and a blue tie."*

THE WESTERN DAILY PRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its account of the accident to M. Vedrines, that: "The airman steered his machine towards the railway line, but, unfortunately, a TRAIN *passed at the moment, and* TOUCHING *the aeroplane,* CAUSED IT TO FALL TO THE GROUND. *It is stated that he* FELL 600 FEET."

THE STAFFORDSHIRE SENTINEL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For describing certain artificial fertilisers as "little GREEN *tablets,* PERFECTLY COLOURLESS *and clean,"*

GARDEN LIFE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For speaking of "the white statue of Nelson, with his blind eye and SLEEVELESS ARM,"

THE DAILY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "In modern times, however, it (the lasso) is mainly used in the New World, where herders of cattle THROW *the lasso* ALL THE WAY FROM CANADA TO CAPE HORN,"

THE SCOUT
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "On several EVENINGS *this week—especially on Tuesday—*EARLY RISERS *in Spalding have found ice to a considerable thickness on the water,"*

THE SPALDING GUARDIAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its account of a wedding, that the train-bearers "each carried a POSY *of* PANAMA HATS, *and wore a pearl swallow brooch,"*

THE SURREY ADVERTISER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its account of some recent police-court proceedings, that: "The gelding was in a very distressed condition indeed, and witness found that it was lame on BOTH NEAR FORE LEGS,"

THE CHATHAM STANDARD AND ROCHESTER JOURNAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "One almost shudders at the particulars of this Cymric scheme to scotch the Socialist SNAKE *by nipping it in the* BUD,"

THE CLARION
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating under the heading "Golden Gleams," "I know the atmosphere which I like, and I know where I shall find it. It is with the woman with the SMILE AND ROSES ON HER TONGUE,"

WOMAN'S WEEKLY
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

"TITANIC" TRICKERY.

ANOTHER WHITEWASHING ENQUIRY?—THE FARCE OF THE PROCEEDINGS—BOARD OF TRADE AS BOTH DEFENDANT AND PLAINTIFF!

BY HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

The more I look into this Enquiry, the less I like it. I confess that from the outset I was not enthusiastic over the selection of Lord Mersey. Not only has he had an intimate professional connection with the big shipping companies, but I could not help remembering that he was a member of the whitewashing Jamieson Raid Committee—now admitted by everyone to have been a device for stifling public feeling and, at the same time, covering up the complicity of certain persons of high position. And my fears were increased at the very first sitting of the Wreck Court.

CHOOSING THE "PARTIES."

After acceding to the application of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, Lord Mersey refused the British Seafarers' Union and the Imperial Merchant Service Guild permission to take part in the proceedings, adding that if, as the Enquiry proceeded, "he was satisfied that it was desirable others should be represented, he would take care that they were communicated with." It is surely sufficient to remark that the moving spirit of the National Sailors' and Firemen's Union, the body thus selected to represent the interests of the sailors, is Mr. Havelock Wilson, who is a member of that Advisory Committee of the Board of Trade which actually suggested that, in the case of liners fitted with watertight compartments, the old grossly inadequate number of lifeboats required by the Regulations might be largely reduced, and that he also distinguished himself by wiring to Mr. Ismay condolence in regard to the criticisms which had been levelled at him. On the other hand, the rejected body, the British Seafarers' Union, though younger is very virile, includes among its members one-third of the crew of the *Titanic*, and speaks with undenied authority for over nine-tenths of those on the *Olympic*—in fact, it is fresh in the public mind that its ukase caused the recent strike on that vessel. The Imperial Merchant Service Guild, representing officers of the *Titanic* and their relatives, is also a very active body. Still, the Attorney-General said he "raised no objection to his Lordship's ruling," and Sir Robert Finlay agreed, stating that he was "quite content to leave the matter in his Lordship's hands." All obstacles to the harmony of the proceedings being thus removed, matters would doubtless have gone on placidly. But some restless spirits were not satisfied with this friendly arrangement, and brought the matter up in the House of Commons, one even pointing out that some of the officers who were thus shut out had been served with a "notice of investigation," and were by the statutory rules thereby "deemed to be parties to the proceedings." Mr. Asquith could only explain this extraordinary anomaly by saying that the matter was "entirely for the Court to determine"; and Mr. Buxton also experienced a few unpleasant minutes' heckling and, being decidedly in a corner, put up the Attorney-General to "explain." Sir Rufus Isaacs, after saying that he had "raised no objection, and does not raise any objection to any one who has applied to the Court being represented by Counsel or otherwise, the only thing he is anxious about being that there should be no unnecessary duplication," expressed his view that, as everybody could not be present, classes of persons should be represented. "This," he proceeded, "is the view I have taken from the first; I shall be prepared to state it to the Court as soon as the opportunity arises." This attitude, it will be seen, is a somewhat different one from that taken up by him at the initial hearing. So all's well that begins well—perhaps.

A VITAL OMISSION.

Why do I say "perhaps"? Have you looked at that long list of questions formulated by the Attorney-General, *on behalf of the Board of Trade*, for the determination of the Court? Very imposing, isn't it? Just the thing for the simple man in the street—and the Party press. "A most searching enquiry—nothing left out," we are told. Let us see. Do you realise that the one real question to be determined by Lord Mersey is:—

Were the regulations of the Board of Trade adequate to cope with a disaster of this character?

And where do you find *that* question in the Attorney-General's list? *Why* isn't it there? Simply because, although it is the Board of Trade which is primarily on its trial, it is that very body which, having set the Enquiry in motion, is by the terms of the Act in control of the whole proceedings, and has the "conduct and management of the case" in its hands. What do you think of that? Do you wonder that I plead for a Business Government? Of course, the conduct of the Enquiry should be in the hands of a Committee of the House of Commons, represented, not necessarily by Counsel, but by somebody totally unconnected with either the Board of Trade or the Government. Look at the "Assessors." Professor Biles is an excellent lecturer and naval architect, but he has been connected with the building of a large number of passenger vessels whose boat accommodation is deplorably inadequate—he will, however, best be known to fame as the designer of the L.C.C. Thames steamers! The other Assessors are very estimable gentlemen, but the appointment of persons with experience on board a man-o'-war, a cross-channel steamer, or in the construction of engines for a few tramp steamers, is hardly calculated to inspire confidence that the Board really intends to get to the bottom of the present trouble.

TRICKING THE PUBLIC.

I do not like using the word "Trickery" in regard to such a matter. But I can find no other. That Mr. Buxton has been deeply moved and heavily oppressed over this disaster no one who has seen him daily during the past fortnight can deny. That Sir Rufus Isaacs would be a party to a hushing-up Enquiry is not arguable; his desire for fair play, whether he be for Plaintiff or Defendant—Prosecutor or Prisoner—has always bordered upon scrupulosity. But they are both the representatives of a System, and the unconscious embodiment of its spirit—the spirit of hide-bound, narrow-minded Officialism, working behind an effete and inherently corrupt Party veil. Thus for twenty years, whilst ocean liners have evolved from cockle shells to leviathans, the "Board" of Trade Regulations have remained unaltered. The irony of it all is that even now the Attorney-General is permitted to submit as one of the points for the decision of the Court, "Were the requirements of the Board complied with?" Was ever greater insult offered to the public? And the whole proceedings are under the "management and control" of this same Board—and the Commissioner will in due course have to report *to* it! And, I presume, the Board will fix his fee! *Isn't* it Trickery?

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

THE Y.M.C.A. RESTAURANT.

UNFAIR COMPETITION BY A CHARITY-AIDED CONCERN.

In January last, when an enterprising American was over here organising the collection of £100,000 for the Club House of the Y.M.C.A., we wished him luck, although at the same time expressing the view that the money ought to have been obtained before and not after the Club House was built. But we were certainly not aware that we were to have another of those charity-aided business concerns such as we have exposed from time to time in these columns. We find, however, that the management of the Central Y.M.C.A. are competing unfairly with restaurant proprietors in the vicinity of Tottenham Court Road.

A few days ago, as the result of "information received," we lunched at the Y.M.C.A. Restaurant, which is open to the general public. Here is the menu:—

SOUP.

Purée Fermiere.

ENTREE OR JOINT.

Liver and Bacon, or Roast Ribs of Beef and Yorkshire Pudding. Stuffed Calves' Hearts.

VEGETABLES.

Roast or Boiled Potatoes and Marrowfat Peas and Cabbage.

SWEETS.

Rice Pudding, Stewed Prunes and Custard.

The inclusive charge for the above was 1s.

The table-linen and accessories were equal to those of any first-class restaurant, and it is obvious that such a lunch could not be served by any tradesman who had to pay his own rent, rates and taxes under at least eighteenpence. Naturally, there is a rush to the restaurant, a great many of the customers being people who can well afford to go elsewhere. Perhaps, however, they want to be "converted."

It is time this unfair trading was put a stop to.

A DISGUSTING DEFINITION.

A CHANCE FOR TOMMY TO PROVE HE IS A SOLDIER AND *A MAN*.

In a leaflet which bears the imprint of "The Anti-Militarist Education League," 15, Netherwood Road, Shepherd's Bush, appears the following definition of a soldier:—

> A good soldier is a blind, heartless, soulless, murderous machine. He is not a man, he is not even a brute, for brutes only kill in self-defence. All that is human in him, all that constitutes a man, has been sworn away when he took the enlistment oath. His mind, his conscience, and his very soul, are in the keeping of his officer.
>
> No man can fall lower than a soldier—it is a depth beneath which we cannot go.

Surely there are some ex-soldiers round Shepherd's Bush way.

BAIT FOR TERRIERS.

A LITTLE BIT OF LIVER FOR THE DOGS OF WAR.

When is Haldane's Territorial Farce to cease? In spite of tempting youths with cigarettes, toffee, and free seats at cinematograph shows, the Force has never been within tens of thousands of its establishment. The latest bribe comes from the heart of Mid-Lothian. The Fifth Royal Scots make the following offer:—

> TWENTY-FIVE SEASON TICKETS (1912-1913) of either HEART OF MID-LOTHIAN or HIBERNIAN FOOTBALL CLUBS (as preferred by winners) have been offered for distribution (by drawing as in a raffle) amongst young men joining the FIFTH BATTALION, THE ROYAL SCOTS (Queen's Edinburgh Rifles), from now until the end of May, if the Battalion is brought up to full strength. ONLY 200 MEN ARE REQUIRED. If fewer join, the number of tickets will be reduced in proportion. The drawing will take place during the summer camp at Stobs, in Trades' Holiday Week.

Where are the police? Does not this offer come within the Lottery Act?

A "TITANIC" HEROINE—AND A HERO ON SHORE.

BRAVE ACTIONS UNSUNG IN THE PRESS.

In the great disaster which has befallen the 1,600 persons who lost their lives on the ill-fated *Titanic* are bound up many personal tragedies, one of which has been brought to our attention. One of the passengers on the boat was a poor woman, who had the misfortune to be married to a man who, eight months ago, ran away to the United States, leaving her with two children entirely unprovided for. She was, however, able by great industry to maintain herself and the children with the assistance of her brother, who manfully stood by her in her distress. After a time, by their united exertions and self-sacrifice, sufficient money was saved to enable her to proceed to America in the hope of tracing the man and making him fulfil his legal and moral obligations. Unfortunately, the vessel she selected to take her across the Atlantic was the *Titanic*, and her name is included amongst the missing. Her brother, who, for a time, when asking our advice, refrained from giving us the full details, "as he thought perhaps we would think he was a feminine sort and was trying to solicit our sympathy," in his own simple language now says:—

> After my sister's husband left her, she had no one but me to fall back upon, so of course I done what any brother loving his sister as a honest British man should do, and so supported her and the two children, and am still doing so. Now her husband is somewhere in America, I don't know exactly where, but I believe Toronto. Now naturally you will say it was my sister's place to have him hunted up and arrested and brought back to England. Well, that would have meant my sister having to take her two children into Cardiff Union (as we have not sufficient money to employ a solicitor), and perhaps be pointed at with scorn some day as "Workhouse brats." So I told her I should leave him alone, and had it come to the point, I should have stopped her by force rather than allow her and her two dear little children to have spent a night in Cardiff Union. That is our English law—a respectable woman before she can have her husband arrested, or have any help of any kind, has to suffer the humiliation of spending a night in the union, proving that she is destitute thereby, before she can get any support. I am not in some respects a believer in Woman Suffrage, but they certainly ought to be treated a little fairer than the law at the present time treats them. Now could you tell me, if her husband should come and claim the two children, could he have them, as I am in awful trouble over it, as are also my mother and father, seeing we have looked after them for eight months or more, without a halfpenny's help from him or his family. So I should be greatly indebted to you if you could let me know whether he can or no. If he should be able to do so I can promise him the best hiding he has ever had, as the only thing that prevented me from giving him the hiding he richly deserved before he left England was that I could see my sister, poor soul, loved him as only a wife and mother can love.

We are proud that this fine fellow should be one of our readers and should look to us for advice, and entirely agree with his estimation of the scoundrel who has acted so basely, and also as to the iniquity of requiring a woman to be in a state of absolute destitution before the public authorities will proceed against the husband for her support. As to the law regarding the guardianship of the children, the father is entitled to this, *unless it can be proved that he is an unfit person to have such custody*. In the present case there should be no difficulty in establishing his unfitness, as quite apart from any misconduct of which he may have been guilty, he has not inquired after them, or contributed to their support. In any event, the Court would not order their uncle to give them up until the father had reimbursed the cost of their maintenance—not that this, of course, is any object to their generous relative, except that it would probably place a considerable difficulty in the way of the rascally father obtaining their possession again.

BOTTOMLEY AND "BUSINESS."

QUEEN'S HALL,
LANGHAM PLACE, REGENT STREET,
SATURDAY, 8 p.m.

See page 581.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

THE "PRUDENTIAL" OCTOPUS.

STARTLING FACTS AND FIGURES REVEALED BY THE ACCOUNTS—A MILLION AND A QUARTER VICTIMS LAST YEAR—GREAT INCREASE OF CLAIMS AND GREAT DECREASE OF NEW BUSINESS—THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.

Shortly after the recent meeting of the Prudential shareholders almost every paper in the land published inspired and paid-for summaries of the Directors' Report and Accounts for the year 1911, with glowing commentaries upon the progress and strength of the Company's business; whilst an officially edited, and misleading, "summary" of the position was circulated broadcast amongst agents and policy-holders. All this was, of course, intended to give an air of reality to the Chairman's boast at the meeting, that the attacks of "a certain weekly paper" had "altogether failed."

Our present purpose is not only to show how severely the Prudential has been hit by our exposures, but also to issue a grave warning to our readers to shun the Company as they would shun a leper, and to paint it in its true light as the most heartless fraud which ever posed as a friend of the thrifty poor. For this purpose it has been necessary to compare carefully the accounts for 1911 with those for the previous year—and the result is startling. Not only is it clear that the Company has received a terrible blow at our hands, but it is equally demonstrated that it has, and has for years past, been piling up gigantic profits for its shareholders by a system which we can describe in no milder term than that of callous and calculated robbery—the worst feature of the whole thing being that the victims are the poorest and most helpless class of the community.

THE ORDINARY BRANCH.

We take first the Ordinary branch, with which, so far, our attacks have had little to do. It is clear, however, that it has not escaped the effect of the general discredit from which the Company is suffering. The following figures are taken from the Balance Sheets issued by the Company for 1910 and 1911. In the Ordinary branch in 1910, 80,311 new policies were issued, assuring a sum of £7,462,496, and producing a new annual premium of £446,473. The premiums received during the year were £4,806,121, being an increase of £96,014 over the year 1909. In the same branch in 1911, 60,012 new policies were issued, assuring a sum of £5,396,721, and producing a new annual premium income of £325,699. The premiums received during the year were £4,812,268, being an increase of £6,147 over the year 1910. According to these figures, the Company issued 20,299 *policies less in* 1911 *than in* 1910, *being a decrease of more than one-fourth of the total business.* The amount assured was £2,065,775 less in 1911 than in 1910, and the amount of new premium income was £120,774 less than in 1910, and the increase in premium income was £89,867 less than in 1910.

A remarkable feature of the figures is that although 60,012 new policies were issued during 1911, *the total number in force in this branch at the end of the year was 2,203 less than at its commencement.* They began with 903,896 policies, and issued 60,012 additional ones, so there should have been a total at the end of the year of 963,908. We find, however, that such total was 901,693, leaving 62,215 to be accounted for. From this, however, we have to deduct 29,333, being the number of death and endowment claims paid; and thus we arrive at a net total of 32,882 *policy-holders who either cut their loss by letting their policies lapse or took the miserable sums allowed as "surrender value."* So much for the "failure" of our attack as regards its effect upon the Ordinary branch.

THE INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

It is here, however, that the full force of our campaign has been felt, and, as we have said, the figures are startling. It must be remembered that in previous years the accounts have always shown an ever-growing increase of new business, but now, for the first time, a different tale is to be told.

The premiums received in 1910 were £7,426,317, being an increase of £254,547 over the previous year. In 1911 the premiums received during the year were £7,631,408, being an increase of £205,091, or £49,456 *less increase in* 1911 *than* 1910, *being one-fifth less.*

The policies issued in this branch in 1910 were 2,306,412, and in 1911 1,992,637, or 313,775 *less than the previous year*, being one-seventh of the total.

Another fact revealed by the accounts is that in the Industrial branch £170,000 more was paid in claims in 1911 than in 1910. It would be interesting to know how much of this vast sum is represented by the return, as the result of our exposures, of premiums obtained by fraud and forgery and upon illegal policies.

A GHASTLY DISCOVERY.

But by far the most startling fact revealed by the accounts is that *no less than one million and a quarter poor people lost every penny they had paid into the Company*, only 140,617 holders of Industrial policies out of a total of 1,397,673 which lapsed receiving any kind of benefit, and they only to the extent of less than a third they had paid in. Talk about encouraging thrift! We do not hesitate to say that the Prudential Company, in its Industrial branch, is nothing more or less than a legalised brigand. And to think that this sort of thing has been going on for years! Surely it constitutes almost as grave an illustration as that furnished by the *Titanic* disaster, of the necessity for a Business Board of Trade. Such a Board would require every industrial assurance company not only to publish details of all sums received in respect of lapsed policies, but to either hand the whole amount over to the Treasury, or pay a heavy super-tax upon it, for the benefit of the poor.

DIVIDING THE SPOIL.

In one respect, we admit, our attacks have so far not been effectual. They have not yet prevented the annual division by the shareholders of *upwards of half a million of money by way of dividend—upon an original capital of* £2,500! To give policy-holders an idea of what this means, let us say that it takes over one thousand agents, with two hundred assistants and about fifty superintendents, a whole year to collect the sum thus divided by the shareholders. Put in another way, it represents all the money collected during a whole year in twelve towns of the size of Hull; or, to give another illustration, all the money paid to the Company by nearly three million policy-holders under Tables A and C. Let the thrifty poor, therefore, understand what becomes of their money, and in whatever office they may in future insure, BEWARE OF THE PRUDENTIAL.

If you are in the Industrial branch and have paid upon your policy for five years you are entitled to a free policy for a certain amount, without paying any further premiums. We strongly advise you to adopt this course, and if you experience any difficulty with the company we shall be pleased to assist you, free of charge, to obtain your rights. DON'T PAY ANY MORE MONEY.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

FAKED FISH.

AN UNAPPETISING "BROWNING."

A Leith fish-curer wishes us to call attention to a method of faking fish, which, he says, is doing a tremendous amount of harm to the legitimate curing trade in this country—the sale of so-called smoked fillets. He says that practically everyone who buys this delicious-looking fish, which is of a beautiful deep brown tint, imagines he is buying smoked cod, ling or haddock. As a matter of fact, what he is really getting is dyed saith, monk fish, catfish, or any rubbish the salesman wishes to get rid of. He assures us that if consumers knew what it was they would certainly not eat it. The method of preparing such offal is by boning, skinning, and then dipping it in a preparation of which he has been good enough to send us a sample. It is a liquid possessing a deep amber colour. Unfortunately, our correspondent says, all fish treated with the liquid is not fresh, as the process provides a ready way of getting rid of stuff which is too far gone to sell in the ordinary way, the preparation not only dyeing it, but killing any smell or bad taste. The trade in really good smoked cod, ling, etc., is very seriously handicapped by this deleterious stuff, as, of course, it is of a much higher price. When buying "fillet" purchasers should make sure that they get real smoked cod or ling.

SHOPKEEPER AND INSURANCE CANVASSER.

HOW A NORTH LONDONER WAS "LEFT IN THE CART."

A shopkeeper in North London, on February 27th, had a visit from a Mr. James Meakin, of 79, Tower Gardens Road, Tottenham, who represented himself to be an agent of the Scottish Indemnity Co., of 96, Queen Street, E.C. As a result of his solicitation Meakin obtained 2s. 9d. as a premium for a fire policy of £100, giving a receipt for the amount on a memorandum form headed with the company's name. A fortnight later he called again and said that the policy would be forthcoming shortly, but next day a letter was received from the company stating that the proposal had that day been submitted to them, that they regretted that they were unable to issue a policy, and had accordingly instructed Mr. Meakin to repay any amount received on account of premiums. But all the tradesman was able to obtain from that individual was a statement that he had forwarded the amount to the company by postal order, the number of which he alleged to give, payable at King William Street, and an expression of trust that the policy would be issued, failing which he suggested that the company should again be applied to. Unfortunately, Mr. Meakin headed his postcard merely "Late Tower Gardens Road," and gave no newer address. A further letter to the company brought the reply that Mr. Meakin was not their agent at the time of the transaction, his appointment having been cancelled on February 2nd.

It is certainly very hard that the poor tradesman should be deprived of his money in this manner.

WANDSWORTH'S WASTE.

A PROTEST AGAINST LAYING UP RUBBISH.

A reader in the Southfields district of the borough of Wandsworth complains that in his street the dust cart comes round, at most, once a week, and even then on no particular day. The result of this is that, in cases in which absence on business necessitates the house being closed during the day time, the refuse tank is sometimes put out in the morning full and is taken back in a similar condition in the evening, each time being carried through the house, as there is no backway. He says that when he left home the other day the refuse had not been cleared away since the previous Friday week! It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the danger to health of such a state of things. He says—and there seems to be force in it—that refuse should be removed at least twice a week, and that it would be well for the Borough Council to revise its arrangements for the collection before waiting for an epidemic to break out. He adds that last summer he wrote to the Medical Officer of Health upon the matter, and for a time the cart came round once a week, but now the service has relapsed into this very unsatisfactory state.

CANADIAN BARBARITIES.

CRUELTY TO CHILD IMMIGRANTS AND CALLOUSNESS TO OLDER SUFFERERS.

Our Toronto contemporary, *Jack Canuck* (of course, a Canadian equivalent for John Bull), is doing great service in Canada by exposing the iniquities of the immigration traffic. Here are two items from its issue of April 20th:—

> BEAT AN ORPHAN BOY.—It is time the Government took a hand in overseeing the distribution of children who are brought from England by various institutions in Canada. In most cases these waifs are kept a week or so at these "homes" and then turned over to the first farmer who comes along for a youngster. The usual terms are that the farmer must board, clothe and educate the child, boy or girl, until fourteen years of age. Wages must then be paid. Now the question is: How much trouble do these "homes" take to inquire into the home life or character of the applicant who comes along for the defenceless waif? In some instances, no doubt, great care is exercised. In others, regard simmers down to nothing. God help the poor little kiddie if the farmer he goes to is anything like William O'Brien, a farmer living in the township of Sandwich, who was fined $9.25 by Police Magistrate Liggatt, Windsor, the other day for pounding George Fisher, a nine-year-old waif from the McPherson Home, at Stratford, over the back and shoulders with a poker until the child's body was black and blue.

> To live seventeen days in a dug-out in a straw stack on the open prairie, near Tisdale, with both feet so badly frozen that he could not walk, and no food or drink but the oats he painfully garnered from the straw in the stack and the snow around the hole in which he sheltered, was the almost unprecedented feat of John Wannmaker, who is now in Prince Albert Hospital, where the lying immigration agent who brought him to Canada ought to be.

We are afraid it must be the Canadian climate which makes the immigration officials so cold-blooded. By every mail such horrible accounts of the sufferings of poor deluded emigrants reach us as should move the most callous.

SHIPS' SHYLOCKS.

HOW CREWS ARE "RAMPED" BY MASTERS.

BY A. DANIEL.

In the interests of justice I trust you will give the following the publicity which has too long been denied it. I refer to the money-grabbing practices adopted by the shipmaster, and his illicit fleecing of the members of his crew.

As an officer in the Merchant Service, these last ten years, this has come under my notice repeatedly, and I (with others) take it hard to see the dignity of the profession go by the board.

I will unhesitatingly affirm that such practices obtain on 40 per cent. of what are known as tramp-steamers. The system is as follows: In foreign parts the master draws the cash for disbursements from his agents, but instead of advancing this to his crew, he informs them he cannot get money, or makes some other excuse equally lame, adding, as an afterthought, that they may have what they require from the bum-boat. Now this particular bum-boat man has been selected out of perhaps a dozen who swarm up the ship's side and literally invade the master on the bridge when coming into port, the sole reason for his selection being his liberality by way of commission to the master—or, in other words, his prowess as an extortioner.

This oily-tongued Asiatic supplies the men with what they require, charging exorbitantly, and will advance money on their signing away 25 per cent. on it.

There is growing dissension amongst the men on this very subject—and small wonder when one sees a man who should command the esteem of all under him abusing his position, and entering into transactions with that blood-sucking parasite the bum-boat man, at the expense of the crew of his ship.

It is more than time that the British shipmaster awakened to the responsibilities of his position, and put away from him all such sordid trading as unworthy of a man. If he does not, there are breakers ahead, and perhaps an advanced legislature will deprive him of those powers which he has hitherto prostituted so flagrantly.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

BEHIND THE VEIL OF LONDON LIFE—IV.

AN EVENING IN THE WEST END—DINNER, THE "PROM.," AND SUPPER.

BY OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

[This week we continue what is proving to be a startling series of articles by Our Special Commissioner, giving the result of an extensive investigation, upon which he has been engaged for some time past, into the hidden life of London—the Modern Babylon. We shall do our utmost to avoid wounding the susceptibilities of the most fastidious reader, but the story we have to tell is a solemn and momentous one, and will, we trust, be of inestimable service to the community.]

This week I return to that most remarkable measure introduced into Parliament by the Member for North Somerset—"The Prevention of Immorality" Bill. I shall deal with a couple of its clauses only, and for the purpose of illustrating them introduce the reader to Piccadilly and its environs after nightfall.

Those who have followed me from time to time in these columns must admit I am no prude, and that when I write of the seamy side of London it is not to denounce the Magdalen, but those who batten on her. The Magdalen is often the real guardian of virtue, but that is a big problem which it is no part of my present purpose to discuss.

Her life is terribly loathsome. Never was there a greater anachronism uttered in connection with it than "a short life and a merry one." A short life she certainly has, for she rarely survives five years of it.

Let us have a peep at her in the first year. In another chapter we will follow her subsequent career—and picture her end.

The Member for North Somerset and those who have backed his measure propose dealing most drastically with those persons who live on immoral earnings. The Bill provides that if any person shall knowingly live, either wholly or in part, on such earnings he shall be liable to 12 months' imprisonment; and that if any man shall habitually solicit for an immoral purpose he also shall be liable to similar punishment. And power is given to a constable to arrest without warrant any person believed to be guilty of either of the above offences, subject to certain safeguards. Consider how this would work if put in motion in a straightforward and impartial manner.

A DULL DINNER.

Let us see life for a couple of hours—life fast and furious. We must be in evening dress, and as we shall probably need to consume a goodly quantity of wine, whether we are partial to it or not, we had better dine before we set out on our mission of exploration. In no city in the world are there so many hotels and restaurants as in the half-mile bordering Piccadilly Circus. One may dine in the French cafés of Soho for a couple of shillings, or, more sumptuously, in the fashionable hotels and restaurants for half-a-guinea. As money is no object to-night, we will take our seats at a table in one of the latter. As we enter its doors a liveried attendant, six feet high, and a typical British "bruiser," respectfully gives us a military salute. *He is the only British subject employed on the establishment.* The hour is 8.30, and as we stroll into the luxuriously appointed hall, a couple of foreign waiters take our coats and hats and we get seated. For a moment we glance round the establishment and notice the beautiful oil paintings which adorn its walls, and the fairy electric lights, toned by crimson shades, which stand on each table. The company is cosmopolitan, and of both sexes. Evening dress is, of course, *de rigueur*, and the ladies, of whom there are several at tables dining alone, seem to have challenged each other in daring display of their charms. Strict dinner "manner" prevails. One never unbends in Piccadilly *before ten*. To the strain of a first-class string orchestra, the servile waiters take us through the dinner, and by the time we have finished our liqueur and coffee, it is close upon ten. We have been moderate with our wine, so when we get the bill we find it has cost only a little over a couple of sovereigns. We take our coats and hats from the liveried attendant, who profusely bows, and depart into the street. When once in the open, I say to my friend, "Well, what do you think of it? Will the proprietor of that establishment come within the scope of the Bill?"

He doesn't reply, and we stroll along smoking our cigars and watching the passing crowd. As we reach the fountain in the Circus, with Cupid standing aloft, we are asked to buy a buttonhole, and we notice that we are almost hemmed in between sylph-like forms. No need to ask who they are. As they pass, they give you a pleasant glance—or, to use the American expression, "the Glad Eye"—but they never speak or molest you. A little further on, we notice two effeminate youths arm in arm, and immediately on our right hear two Magdalens pass some very uncomplimentary remarks with reference to them. And we understand. At Bond Street, we turn round, retrace our steps, and make for the "Empire." As we wend our way to the brilliantly-lighted Square, we pass again through the same crowd. Taxis and 'buses going east and west. Girls by the score in picture hats, clinging dresses, and high-heeled boots, with just a shade of white lace showing above the ankle. Younger girls dressed in short skirts, with flowing hair down their backs, and certainly not looking more than 16 years of age, smile as we pass them. Just before we enter Leicester Square, we notice a man raise his hat to one of the girls—they are nicknamed "flappers" by the older Magdalens. I touch my friend on the shoulder and say "Wait; let's see what's going to happen here." A minute was sufficient. Then the child called a taxi, and she and her companion disappeared. "I hope you saw who did the accosting there," I remarked.

IN THE "PROM."

We make for the Promenade, for we are out to see life, not music-hall turns. The "Prom." has no novelty for me, but my friend—well, when he got there he opened his eyes. A fashionably-dressed crowd of men and women, and the ladies' dresses cut as low as they dare. Some were seated at small tables drinking, others were walking about casting inquisitive glances at the men, but never once offering a remark without being spoken to. That is an unwritten law which is rigorously carried out. The behaviour of the girls here, and, indeed, at all the other well-known music-halls in London, is exemplary. Observing that my friend was beginning to wish he had not embarked upon this visit of exploration, I insist upon a bottle of wine. He follows me mechanically, and, before he knows where he is, I have him seated at a table partly occupied by two good-looking young girls. As we take our seats they greet us with a pleasant smile. I endeavour to make the girls talk. My friend seems a little anxious, for every female eye in the neighbourhood is upon us. As wine dispels fear, I order the waiter to fill up my friend's glass. We are getting on fine, when the curtain drops on the last turn. The orchestra plays "God Save the King."

A BOHEMIAN SUPPER.

Up to this point, however, we have not got the girls' stories, so I suggest we adjourn for supper at a certain Bohemian restaurant. I need not enter into an elaborate description of this establishment, beyond stating that in contra-distinction to the one where we dined, you may freely "unbend." The place is crowded, and it is with difficulty we get a table. We do justice to the supper (and more wine), after which the ladies light their cigarettes and ask for liqueurs. I whispered to my friend that it is impossible to get the stories yet. The babel is too boisterous; so I suggest we accompany them home. The girls are agreeable. My friend nearly has a fit, but the wine is in him. I'm acting the part of Mephisto. We pay the bill, and soon we are all four in a taxi, speeding our way to a flat near Oxford Street.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

"FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED."

MYSTERIOUS ADVERTISEMENTS AND HAZY EXPLANATIONS.

On September 1st and 22nd last, Messrs. Collings and Co., Emigration and Colonisation Agents, of Rosemont Parade, North Finchley, advertised in the columns of the *Police Review* for men for the Canadian and Ontario forces respectively. An applicant for one of the posts sends us some very interesting correspondence he has had with the firm. On October 21st, they wrote him that they had not then received instructions from Canada regarding the matter, and promised that directly they did so they would communicate to him the result of his application. However, on November 3rd, the *Police Review*—which has throughout behaved very candidly—published an article in which it stated that some very serious misunderstanding had arisen, as on the 24th of the previous month they had received a visit from a representative of the agent of the Ontario Government, who had received a letter from the Superintendent of the Provincial Police assuring him that no such advertisement had been authorised either by him or the Government. Our constabulary contemporary next day received from the Ontario Government's London office the statement that by a slip in the advertisement, applications were requested for the Ontario instead of Toronto force, and that the agents were duly authorised by the police authorities of that city to insert it, the advertisement really coming through the Canadian Northern Railway Company. But subsequently, in a formal letter, the High Commissioner for Canada stated that the Chief Constable of Toronto desired to make it clear that there were no vacancies in the police force there, and that no advertisement for men had been inserted by him or with his knowledge.

On November 16th, Messrs. Collings and Co. wrote to our correspondent that "applicants' names and papers"—it should be said here that forms had been issued to applicants requiring photographs and detailed particulars of qualifications—"have been placed before the proper officials, who are holding over their selection of suitable persons to fill the vacancies until the early Spring." Some months passed without any satisfaction being obtained from Messrs. Collings. On March 16th they wrote, referring the anxious enquirer to Mr. Fred J. Moss, of the Canadian Northern Company, 21, Charing Cross, W.C., who, they said, had all the information and figures, adding that if application was made to him doubtless he could furnish the particulars desired. A letter to Mr. Moss brought forth the reply that the list of applicants likely to be accepted had been passed on to Messrs. Collings and Co., to whom our correspondent's letter had been forwarded, as no copy of the list had been kept in the offices of the railway. Then, on April 23rd, Messrs. Collings and Co., wrote that they understood from Mr. Moss that instructions had been received "*from Canada*" to the effect that "no *further* police were wanted in *that city*," but another selection day would shortly be held, and those that are eligible and could make personal application out there would stand a chance of being selected. Our correspondent, however, did not think that, in view of what he had by this time learnt, and of the vagueness of the description of the place where police had been and would be required, he would, either through Messrs. Collings and Co. or any other agents, emigrate to the Land of the Maple, and accordingly requested the return of his photo, which he received with an expression of Collings and Co.'s sincere regret for giving him so much trouble. They assured him that they "had acted in good faith," and stated that from the correspondence and cables that had passed they were quite certain that Mr. Moss also acted upon instructions from Canada.

We shall be very pleased to hear from them the name of the city in which the police *were* required. It is very much to be regretted that by what may have been a typist's slip this should have been omitted in their letter of the 23rd. As we need not remind Messrs. Collings and Co., the whole of the dispute turns upon this name. They will remember that the place was first stated to have been Ontario, then Toronto, and even now there is vagueness as to its exact locality.

MR. CARLYLE AND THE "TITANIC'S" BOATS.

The Hon. A. M. Carlyle wishes us to deny the newspaper report, to which we alluded last week, that he had expressed himself as satisfied that the *Titanic* had enough lifeboats. He points to the fact that the davits he designed for the vessel provided for three boats being lowered from each. Whilst willingly publishing this statement, Mr. Carlyle must permit us to wonder why, in the circumstances, he signed the Advisory Committee's Report, which would have permitted the *Titanic*—and all other large vessels fitted with watertight compartments—to have sailed with even less life-saving accommodation than had hitherto been enforced by the Regulations.

LOST LINERS AND CREWS' PROPERTY.

A WORD ON BEHALF OF THE "TITANIC'S" RESCUED CREW.

Among the *Titanic* victims was one whose life had previously been preserved in a miraculous manner. He was an officer on the *Republic*—another White Star boat—which foundered when being towed to New York in 1909 after a collision. On the night of the accident, to oblige a passenger, he exchanged berths with him. To this he owed his life, as the colliding boat rammed right into the berth, killing its occupant. However, all his belongings on board, valued at £120, went down with the ship. He was requested by the Company to send in a claim, which he made out to the extent of £100. After waiting about six months the Company settled by paying him a quarter of the amount. It is to be hoped that the survivors of the ill-fated *Titanic's* crew will be treated generously.

"ORLEBAR, J.P., OF SHARNBROOK."

In a recent issue under this heading we commented upon the imposition by the Sharnbrook magistrates of a fine of 13s. 6d. upon a schoolmaster for plucking a few willow twigs (the property of Lord St. John) for school demonstration, the sentence being considerably aggravated by the delivery to him of a sermon upon the text, "Thou shalt not steal." We are now informed that, although the report in the *Kettering Leader*, upon which our paragraph was based, stated that the case was heard "before Mr. R. Orlebar (in the chair), Mr. C. Pettitt, Mr. R. C. Alston, and Mr. F. V. Dalton, and the Hon. H. B. O. St. John," Mr. St. John was not present during the hearing of the charge, as he was taking cases in another Court. We have great pleasure in making this correction, and hope that no annoyance has been caused to Mr. St. John by the matter.

OUR MEDICAL COLUMN.

By An Unqualified Practitioner.

D. L. G. (Criccieth).—You are suffering from Religio-Controversialitis, a disease very prevalent in Wales just now. Take five grains of Toleration in a little whisky and water three times a day, and a dessertspoonful of Epsom Salts every morning on rising. Don't worry. The complaint is more distressing than dangerous.

"Master and Man" (London, S.W.).—I am afraid nothing will get rid of the spots. All you can do is to dust them with a little powdered chalk or smear them with common whitewash. Take a mild aperient, such as Akbarar Segrada.

H. H. A. (Downing Street, S.W.).—The corn may be caused through toeing the line too frequently. If so, the only remedy is to make a point of always taking a firm stand. Avoid getting your toes pinched.

"Buxtonian" (London, S.W.).—When troubled with bad dreams the thing is to find out the cause and remove it. In your case, to imagine that you are engaged nightly in a desperate quarrel with the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons and the Archbishop of Canterbury, is rather a serious symptom, and indicative of grave nervous affection. Take a teaspoonful of Titanicum in a wineglassful of water before retiring and a bottle of Apenta Water on rising in the morning.

(*Numerous replies are unavoidably held over.*)

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

HOW TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL PEACE.

A PLEA FOR THE FRATERNISING OF CAPITAL AND LABOUR.

By T. GOOD.

[Our contributor drastically criticises employers and makes some interesting suggestions which he claims would obviate future Labour troubles.]

Before the big strikes of 1910–11, to say nothing of 1912, pass into half-forgotten history—certainly before we run too much risk of another such period of industrial turmoil—our employers of labour would do well to take a somewhat broader view than hitherto of their duties and responsibilities. And they would do well to take some very definite action. The faults and failings of our workmen, their unions and leaders, are subjects of never-ending lectures, sermons, and journalistic epistles. But what about the vices of employers? We hear a great deal about the bad feeling that exists between Labour and Capital. But is not at least as much of this bad feeling due to the errors of employers as to the misdeeds of workmen? What does the employer, who goes through his works on the occasions of his very rare visits like an Oriental emperor—never condescending to speak to a workman; never trying to ascertain the men's thoughts or troubles; delegating his duties to officials; even sending his own sons to learn Latin and Greek, training them to be smart young aristocrats instead of works managers and business men; the employer who is more eager to parade his wealth and court the favours of nobility than to cultivate the respect and confidence of his workmen—what does such an employer do for the creation of good feeling between Labour and Capital and the maintenance of industrial peace?

A PLEA FOR FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MASTER AND MAN.

Let the employer come off his self-erected pedestal of superiority, mix a little more with his workmen, try to understand them, endeavour to promote their well-being, and let the employers' association meet the workmen's union as an ally rather than an enemy. Then, and not till then, shall we be on the high road to permanent industrial peace. Conciliation Boards and Industrial Councils at the top of the scale are all very well in their way—but friendship at the bottom, at the foundation, between the master and the man in the workshop, and then between the local trade and labour councils and the local chambers of commerce, would do far more for industry than any scheme that can be devised in Whitehall.

It is often said that our workers hold their destiny in their own hands. That may be true; but the fact cannot be denied that the policy of Labour is profoundly affected by the attitude of Capital. If trade unions are thorns in the side of the employers, the employers have themselves to blame, to a very large extent. Trade unions were the direct offspring of capitalist avarice and tyranny, and the policy of the unions, now they are grown up, is just as largely moulded by the wills and whims of employers as by the votes of the members or the speeches of the leaders.

TRADE UNIONISM COME TO STAY.

In our employers' denunciations of trade unionism and unionists, and in their present outcry against picketing and so forth, there is much that smacks of folly, if not hypocrisy. At any rate, trade unionism is an institution that has come to stay—providing we manage to kill the Lloyd George Insurance scheme—and our employers as well as workmen would do well to make the best of it. As a matter of fact, the efficiency of trade unionism is, or ought to be, as much the concern of the employer as of anybody else. We want an industrial *entente cordiale* between employers' associations and trade unions. It is not sufficient that the leaders of Capital and Labour—the two prime forces in industrialism—should come together only during the more or less heated controversy of a dispute. We want the leaders on both sides to work together, as far as possible, for the common good. Yet we actually find employers refusing to meet the men's leaders at a moment of crisis. Surely a body of workmen, if only a minority of their trade, have as much right to employ a delegate to state their case before a board of directors as a litigant has to employ a lawyer to plead for him in Court. And surely the directors are as much bound to listen to the delegate as the judges have to hear the lawyer. More than that, it would be advantageous for the employers to be in constant touch with the union leaders, and through them with the men. We should not then need Government officials to aid in settling many disputes, for few disputes would arise.

AN ERA OF INDUSTRIAL COMBINATION.

What we have got to recognise is that we are living in an era of industrial combination. The employer has become a unit of the company. The company is becoming a unit of the combine or association. Naturally, the labourer has become—at any rate, the intelligent and progressive labourer has become—a unit of the union, and the union, in turn, is becoming a unit of the federation. These capitalist combines and labour unions will grow just as the capitalists and the labourers get more intelligent. The spectacle of shareholders denouncing labour unions and Labour men denouncing capitalist combines is somewhat comic. We want both the unions and the combines; and if—instead of attempting to beat back one or other of these organisations, according to the side we take, in the name of that liberty which is nothing but chaos, anarchy and tyranny—we were to guide these organisations into the right channel, we should be better occupied.

And what is the right channel? Or, rather, which is the way to the right channel? Briefly, my proposals, as previously elaborated in other columns, are these: That, having already got combined Labour and combined Capital with prospects of both forces becoming more and more closely combined, it is time we got Labour *and* Capital to combine, or at least to co-operate, by means of joint industrial councils of three kinds.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

First, we want, in the cases of big undertakings like railways and huge manufacturing concerns, joint councils of managers, foremen, and elected workmen, to meet, say, monthly, and freely discuss the difficulties of the management and the grievances of the men. By such open discussions of workshop politics good feeling would be engendered, and many a difference would be smoothed out long before it had any chance of becoming acute. Secondly we want in every district where there is a trades' council and an employers' association or chamber of commerce, a local council of industry, composed jointly of delegates from the labour and capitalist organisations. These councils should not remain idle until some dispute occurred; but should meet regularly and discuss all local topics of industrial interest—housing, rating, education, transit facilities, etc. Thirdly, we want a national industrial council. The Government has recently appointed a council, but this, instead of being nominated and statutory, should be elective and voluntary, and instead of being charged with the duty of settling disputes after passions have been roused, should occupy itself with avoiding disputes and promoting trade and industrial interests.

THE FOLLY OF CIVIL WAR.

To anyone who takes an impartial view, the spectacle of Labour and Capital organised in separate and hostile camps must be depressing. It may be quite right for these two parts of the industrial army to have two distinct regiments and sets of officers; but surely it would be equally right for the two forces to operate together against, say, such common enemies as the bounty-fed foreign competitor, the municipal Bumble, the Whitehall bureaucrat, and the land monopolist. Labour is Labour and Capital is Capital, but both are parts of one industrial system. If trade unions and councils and congresses can promote the interests of the workmen, and if employers' associations and chambers of commerce can promote the interests of manufacturers or employers, then surely joint councils of the best brains from both sides, working together in time of peace as well as opposing each other in time of war, could promote the welfare of that industry upon which both workmen and employers depend. Far too often we see Capital and Labour opposed in the workshop, in the municipal council, and in Parliament. Perhaps we cannot have an end of this conflict of interests, but co-operation between the two parties when their interests are identical, and a better understanding when they are opposed, is surely not too much to hope for—to strive for? If our employers want industrial peace, let them offer the right hand of fellowship to the workmen, their unions and their leaders.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

"LODGING-HOUSE EUCLID."

ONE WHO KNOWS TELLS US OF SOME OF THE "PROPERTIES OF NUMBERS" UNKNOWN TO THE GREAT MATHEMATICIAN.

A lady keeping a lodging-house in a provincial city sends us the following interesting and amusing letter, apropos of our recent humorous skit, entitled "Lodging-house Euclid":—

Your "Lodging House Euclid" is beyond me, never having been taught Euclid in my young days. Nevertheless, I am one of the much-maligned "*landladies*," although neither plain, oblong, nor irregular in figure, nor am I "equal to anything." For instance, I am not able to prevent my lodgers burning gas in their bedrooms all night if they wish, although I provide candles and candlesticks, unless I put it off at the meter, and even then their brackets may not have been turned off, and in the mornings what happens when the gas is turned on again? If they absorb gas which they do not pay for and get headaches &c., well, the doctor and the chemist benefit, *not* the landlady. Slot meters might do, but who pays for them being installed?

Another thing I cannot prevent is, if I provide a 1s. breakfast and send up enough for two breakfasts for that amount, and my lodgers are going a railway journey, I cannot prevent them filling their sandwich cases with *my* extra bread and butter, ham, eggs, cream, &c., and ring for extra milk, a small bottle for the latter being smuggled into the breakfast-room. I have never been able to make *two* meals *less* than *one* square meal, and as to the *pie*, I am open to enlightenment. Your other Euclid propositions, as I said before, are beyond me, except perhaps, No. 4.

Thirdly, I cannot prevent my lodgers using my telephone free of charge, unless I am on the ground myself or pay 10s. yearly to the P.O. for a slot arrangement, nor, if I provide a small box with a slit, which might cost me 6d. and would serve me for years, can I prevent them putting in a halfpenny instead of a penny. I may mention that a telephone call where I live is only 1d. instead of 2d. as in London. Landladies cannot afford *unlimited* telephone service.

Another thing I cannot prevent is my lodgers' friends calling them up, and if the lodgers happen to be out and I answer the telephone politely ask if I can take a message, "Oh! you might give Mrs So-and-So my love and thank her for the flowers she sent me." These are a few of the delights of keeping lodgers, which I am sure you would appreciate if you gave the business a trial yourself, to say nothing of the haggling before you settle with them to come into your rooms, to enable them to give "Sarah Jane" a previous tip, so that she might do out Miss A.'s bed-room *first*, to enable her to make a sitting-room of it and throw in a few ladymaid's duties, fastening up blouses, &c. Yes, I think I understand proposition No. 4!!

How would you like to provide an oil-lamp in a bed-room to enable a lodger to make it a *business* bed-sitting-room, although the use of a good drawing-room is available with pens and ink provided for general purposes, ink supposed to be provided in said bed-room free of charge? Certainly ink is not an expensive commodity, but it would be a good thing to know whether landlady or lodger ought to pay for *extra* ink.

Let me know if you think of trying the business, as there is a good deal more to learn.

While we thank our correspondent for her offer, we think the perusal of her letter has taught us quite enough of the trials and troubles of the lodging-house keeper.

THE IDEAL BURGLAR.

(At the Stafford Sessions a burglar pleaded for leniency on the grounds that he was more courteous and cultured than the majority of his brethren.—*Daily Mail.*)

I've swearing abolished,
My manners are polished,
In sounding each "h" I delight;
On meeting a lady
I take off my "cady,"
My linen is spotlessly white.

At the house of a "toff," sir,
My boots I take off, sir,
Lest mud his best carpet should soil;
And ere starting my mission
I'd ask his permission,
But don't lest his sleep it should spoil!

GREATREX NEWMAN.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CXCIII.

[In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

BURNT BY THE FOOTLIGHTS.

The following case has been brought to our notice by a well-known philanthropist, who vouches for the accuracy of the statements. We have, in addition, interviewed the subject of this "Human Document," and tested his story. He is a well-set-up young fellow, of fine physique, and he claims that he only wants a chance:—

I commenced my career as an apprentice to a druggist, in the wholesale department. While I was serving it, my father died, and I was left practically my own master. Unfortunately I came in contact with a gentleman in the theatrical profession, and foolishly threw up the druggist business. In a very little time I found myself without employment and friends. I then enlisted in a line regiment, and, perhaps because I had a little better command of the King's English than is usual, I was soon a "marked man" by certain non-commissioned officers. I took my discharge after three years with the colours, and then came to London. Day after day, week after week, I tramped about looking for work. My commercial experience was slight, and I could not get a situation. At last I became a navvy, but that did not last long. One evening I sat in the gardens facing the Embankment, determined to finish my career, when a woman sitting near me asked me if I was ill, and we entered into conversation. She was an actress, playing small parts. She helped me. We commenced to correspond, and eventually I married her. She has proved a good wife, and is with me still.

I obtained casual employment, but so soon as I was on the high road to clearing myself that ceased also. I have tried Labour Exchanges, and have written after advertisements until I am tired. I only ask for a chance. We have no children, but myself and wife are quite prepared to take any offer of a decent situation which will allow us to live an honest, decent life.

We have only to add that if any of our readers can render help in this matter, particularly by the offer of a situation, we shall be pleased to put them into communication with the subject of the "Human Document."

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CXC.—K. and G., 1s.

CXCI.—J. H. N., 3s.; K. and G., 1s.; "Cymro," 2s. 6d.; "Ricardo," 20s.; "Cissie," 20s.; M. J., 6d.; "Harrogate" 1s.; "Dadler," 1s.; "Janie," 2s.; J. G., 1s.; "Rahdol," 1s.; "In Memoriam," 2s.; "Elstow," 1s.; H. J. H., 2s. 6d.; W. B., 1s.; "Ballaugh," 6s.; H. W., 1s.; W. S. A., 2s.

CXCII.—"Every Little Helps," 1 dollar; A. B. C., 2d.; T B., 1s.

OUR COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others willing to assist in this work. We defray all expenses of every kind, including the cost of special investigation.

LONDON.—Mr. A. Huth, 94, East Street, Walworth, 3d.; Mr. E. Butt, The Rose, 86, Fulham Road, S.W., 1d.; Mr. T. Matcham, 80, Richmond Road, Bayswater, W., 7d.; Mr. H. Rogerson, 10, King Street, Portman Square, W., 6d.; Mr. L. Bartlett, 251, Evelyn Street, Deptford, ½d.; Mr. Wm. Bartlett, 85, Rolt Street, Deptford, 6d.; Mr. G. E. Berry, 1a, Adam Street, Portman Square, W., 1d.; Mr. W. M. Panteney, The Alma, 175, Westbourne Grove, W., 1s. 2d.; Mr. H. Berman, 161, Hackney Road, N.E., 1d.; Mr. F. Arnott, The Clarendon, 86, Balcorne Street, S. Hackney, 8d.; Mr. H. G. Parr, "Coach and Horses," Mathias Road, Islington, N., 4d.; Mr. F. Duell, The Clarendon, 92, Mildmay Park, 1s. 1d.; Mr. H. Briggs, 50, Newington Green, N., 6d.; Mr. H. Abrahams, Harry's Cigar Stores, 163, Mare Street, Hackney, 3d.; Mr. G. J. Bletsoe, 31-33, Canonbury Road, N., 3d.; Mr. A. J. Smith, Birch Tree, Gt. James Street, Hoxton, ½d.; Mr. W. G. Biden, "Clothworker's Arms," 53, Arlington Street, New North Road, 3½d.; Mr. H. Pannell, 37, Park Street, Upper Street, Islington, 4½d.; Mr. W. F. Mills, 12c, Belsham Street, Hackney, 2s. 4d.; Mr. Frank Attwood, 237, Rotherhithe Street, S.E., 9d.; Mr. J. Cogger, The Antelope, 48, Weston Street, S.E., 3½d.

Total 10s. 5½d., which we have allocated to CXCI.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

THE POT AND THE KETTLE.

A STORY OF YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY.

By Richard Morton.

I.—The Way of a King.

It was long, long years ago, centuries ago, and the Church of the Romans was healthy and wealthy in this our fair land of England, and her abbots and priors, priests and monks, were fat and rich. Now many people looked with jealous and covetous eyes upon the estates and possessions of the churchmen, and concluded in their inmost hearts that they could do with a bit.

The King of course took what he wanted, without so much as "By-your-leave," and there were many among his counsellors who yearned to go and do likewise, but it was incumbent on them to wait upon the royal will of their liege lord and master. This they did full willingly, knowing all would come right in the end, and that it would not be long before they had their fingers in the pie.

And it was so. For the King, desiring to pay one of his wise men for some important service of a discreet and secret nature, did say unto him, "Look here, old chap, I owe you a bit for that peculiar work you have been doing for me, but I'm horribly stony and can't see my way to fork out."

"That's dead easy," said the wise man; "there are a few square miles of Church land I have long had my eye on. Give me that and make me an earl, and I won't ask for anything more for a month or two."

"I say," quoth the King, "aren't you coming it a bit strong? It is big pay you are asking for."

"True, O King," returned the other, "but not a penny of it comes out of your pocket. See the point?"

And the King, who saw the point, agreed that it was so, and the thing was done. Once the way was found of requiting services to Majesty by the bestowal of property belonging to another, kings were not so much in debt as they used to be.

II.—The Way of a Queen.

Even Queens found it to their profit to follow suit. There was one Queen who lived centuries ago, long before the Law of Libel came into force, of whom it is safe to say she was surrounded by wise men and favourites.

To them she dealt out the property of the Church with no niggard hand. It was not a case of, "Ask and ye shall receive," but of, "Open your hand and shut your eyes and see what the Queen will give you."

To one burly wise man, who and whose family had managed all sorts of tricky affairs for herself and her father, she used to say, "See here, minion, you have been very smart over that last job, but I am not going to part with any of my good gold; I admit I owe you a bit, but you must take it out in Church land. Just mark a strip off the map."

Verily in those days, and in the days preceding them, the men of affairs who were deep in the counsels of State managed to do very nicely, thank you, when it came to getting a grab on anything good that was going. And they became exceeding rich and of high rank.

III.—Where Silence is Golden.

The other day in Parliament it was proposed to distribute some Church properties and to apply the income to certain secular uses, for the good of the people. Whereat some nobles were sorely indignant.

It might have been different had it been proposed to add these properties to the estates already held by the families of the said nobles.

But to apply Church moneys for education and things like that produced a scream.

"It is sacrilege!" shrieked one noble lord. "Robbery!"

It is said that his lordship was only quieted when a great duke gave him a nudge and said, "Simmer down, if you are wise; it is scarcely for you or for me to say these things."

AN OLD EPITAPH.

Here lies John Dodge,
Who dodged all good,
And never dodged an evil;
But after dodging all he could
He couldn't dodge the *D-evil*.

THE GUEST OF THE EVENING.

EXEMPLARY TOASTS WITH SUGGESTED RESPONSES.

By Walter Moore.

Senator Smith.

Gentlemen: Although the shadow of a great disaster broods over England and America, the organisers of these weekly dinners felt that the arrival of Senator Smith in London, and likewise *incognito*, not only justified, but also demanded, the continuance of our sober festivities. It was, therefore, decided to invite Senator Smith to grace our board to-night with his presence (loud cheers), and, at the cost of some personal inconvenience, he was good enough to accept. (Applause.)

Senator Smith, gentlemen, is one of the most remarkable personalities that America (that land of marvels!) has produced. He is the latest addition to the long gallery of American humorists. (Cheers.) With all respect to the late Mark Twain, Bret Harte and Mr. Dooley, I venture to say that he, Senator Smith, is not only the latest, but the greatest. (Cries of "Oh!") Some of you, gentlemen, appear to disagree with me. I am not sorry. Your opposition affords me the opportunity I desire for establishing the claim I have ventured to make on behalf of our guest (Cries of "Go on, then!") All in good time, gentlemen. Whatever may be their methods in the United States, let *us* proceed with *our* inquiry in a judicial manner. (Cheers.)

Senator Smith was born of poor but honest parents. He started in life as a newspaper boy, and there is little doubt that his experience in the streets, crying the various editions, aroused that latent faculty of humour which has since made him famous throughout the world. His humorous bent led him to the study of American law, which, I venture to say, contains more matter for mirth than any codified system of jurisprudence known to civilisation. From the law he drifted naturally into politics, became a member of Congress, and, in due course, blossomed forth in the full glory of a Senator of the United States. (Cheers.)

Strange as it may seem, gentlemen, until the last few weeks Senator Smith's reputation for humour had not extended beyond the bounds of his own country. But when, to the horror of the whole world, occurred the appalling wreck of the *Titanic*, Senator Smith saw his opportunity, and, as is the way of men of transcendent genius, promptly seized it. (Applause.)

Getting himself elected Chairman of the Board of Inquiry hurriedly appointed by the United States Senate, he proceeded to enliven the awful gloom occasioned by the unprecedented disaster, by cross-examining witnesses in a fashion that would have delighted the soul of the great creator of the celebrated trial scene in Bardell *v.* Pickwick. Whether he had been a diligent student of the methods of some of our metropolitan magistrates, and worshipful judges of the High Court, I am not in a position to say, but he had at any rate grasped the great truth that an exhibition of ludicrous ignorance on the part of a person in authority is the surest and quickest way to arouse the laughter of the general public, the gods, and the little fishes. Let me, gentlemen, give you one or two examples of our guest's sly wit. (Cheers.) Questioning Mr. Lightoller, one of the officers of the *Titanic*, he said, "Are the water-tight compartments intended as a refuge for passengers?" (Roars of laughter.) I ask you, gentlemen, have you ever heard anything more sublimely humorous? Then again, he asked, "Did the *Titanic* go down by the bows or by the head?" (Howls of merriment.) Thus, gentlemen, did our guest seek to enliven the gloom. Thus did he strive to relieve the frightful depression that weighed our two nations down to the dust. And it is for that reason that I confidently ask you to rise and drink, with more than your usual heartiness, to the health of Senator Smith. (Loud applause.)

Senator Smith Responds.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I am gratified by the evident sincerity with which you have responded to this toast. I am proud to be coupled with the name of Mark Twain in the realms of humour, and you may take it from me, if ever I get the chance, I shall do better next time. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—See page 810.

WONDERFUL SUCCESS OF GREAT EYESIGHT DISCOVERY.

Reports of First Two Thousand Cases Now Available.

PROOFS POSITIVE THAT FAILING SIGHT CAN BE CURED AT HOME WITHOUT GLASSES.

Mr. John Levison issues free of cost One Million Copies of Particulars, which tell the Weak Sighted how their sight may be restored.

No more astonishing "record of results" has ever been furnished in connection with any great scientific discovery than the first two thousand reports of cases treated by the wonderful new Levison eyesight restoration method.

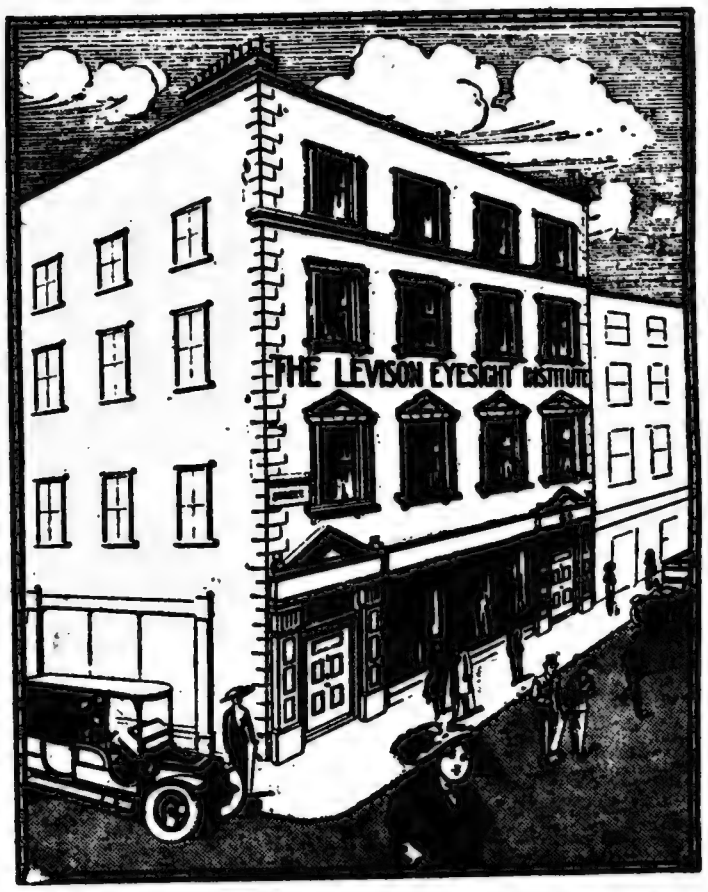
It will be remembered by all regular readers how immediately Mr. Levison made the startling claim that he could offer the public a simple and safe means by which everyone might secure and preserve perfect sight at a trifling cost and trouble. JOHN BULL closely investigated the matter and published a report which stated that Mr. Levison's claim seemed likely to be borne out by facts. No less important and old-established a medical paper than the *Family Doctor* at the same time also predicted, after careful investigation, that the Levison Treatment was destined to play a great part in the restoration of the nation's sight, which has for a long while been deteriorating.

THE EXPERIENCE OF "JOHN BULL" READERS.

The amazing reports which have since then been furnished by eyesight sufferers themselves, many of them JOHN BULL readers, prove conclusively that JOHN BULL was right and that scientific endeavour has once more produced one of those brilliant discoveries that make the landmarks of a century.

More important than anything else is the clear indication that this great eyesight discovery is one that need not be restricted to any individual on account of the question of expense or complicated method of adoption. It is at the disposal of all and the record of results which is now available proves beyond all question that there is hardly any form of eyesight defect which cannot be benefited.

The principle of the Levison Treatment is such that eyesight betterment must accrue wherever it is adopted. It is a simple, direct treatment endorsed by world-famous oculists and consists in the application of the principle of liquid massage together with the use of a strengthening and healing lotion and the whole treatment is so simple that a child can apply it with perfect assurance of success.



The remarkable eyesight improvement achieved by the Levison Treatment within the last three months has led to the opening of an important Institute, at 64, Wigmore Street, London, W., where inquirers can see Mr. Levison personally, or obtain free of charge by post (1) A copy of his book. (2) A special chart for a personal home-sight test. (3) Reprints of Medical Press opinion upon the safety and efficacy of his discovery. (4) Reports from the public who already enjoy renewed sight. (5) If particulars are stated, a personal letter of advice from Mr. Levison. It is only necessary to forward the accompanying application form to secure the foregoing.

SPECTACLES AND GLASSES CAN BE DISCARDED.

One feature that marks the Levison Treatment as a distinct scientific advance is the fact that it renders glasses unnecessary. This is not merely a saving in expense, but, what is of more importance, it saves the disfigurement of a bright and youthful appearance by spectacles.

Everyone knows that it is a common statement, "Take to glasses and you will have to wear them always." This may not be true in every case, but it certainly is in the majority, and it is in order to render glasses and spectacles unnecessary and to afford every weak-sighted man or woman a really effective cure that the Levison Treatment has been placed before the public in such a manner that all may enjoy its benefits without trouble and at a trifling expense.

ENTIRELY A HOME CURE FOR PERSONAL USE.

A valuable feature of the treatment is the fact that it may be conducted at home without any interference with business or social routine, thus those who are now experiencing severe eyesight strain may not only counteract that bad influence but day by day build up their eyesight in such a manner that they will be able to see clearly and keep the eyes themselves clear and healthy looking at practically any age.

Mr. Levison has decided to make no charge for the particulars of his method, and anyone who suffers from weak or failing sight is cordially invited to apply for them on the form below.

FREE ADVICE AND FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD.

Mr. Levison will also be pleased to receive visitors at his new Institute, 64, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., and will explain to anyone troubled with eyesight defect how the treatment may be applied and how it will benefit his or her individual case. Mr. Levison particularly emphasises the point, that those who are wearers of glasses, or those who are in any way troubled with the following symptoms, should at once either call upon him or write for particulars of his discovery.

1. FAILING OR WEAKENING SIGHT.
2. FAILING OF LONG SIGHT.
3. FAILING OF SHORT SIGHT.
4. BLURRING.
5. TWITCHING EYES.
6. HOT EYES.
7. WATERY EYES.
8. DISCHARGING EYES.
9. UNEQUAL POWER EYES.
10. ACHING EYES.
11. RED AND INFLAMED EYES.
12. EYESIGHT HEADACHE.

Readers who have previously communicated with Mr. Levison, but have not yet adopted his remarkable method should not fail to write again, mentioning the fact, when Mr. Levison will send them reports of a very large number of cases.

CUT OUT AND FORWARD FOR FREE JOHN LEVISON BOOK.

To Mr. JOHN LEVISON, 64, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.

(Please enclose 1d. stamp for postage.)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

JOHN BULL, 11/5/12.

Please Write Clearly.

HAIR.

By JIM CROW.

[*Mr. James Crow is our Licensed Crank. A brilliant exponent of unconventional ideas—invariably distorted and lacking in perspective, cynical and epigrammatic in expression—he is a journalistic cat amongst the pigeons. We accept no responsibility for his opinions—or his life.*]

There be two schools of thought in respect of the growth which Nature has planted on the human skin. As the lower animals are exceedingly hirsute, it may be argued that hairiness is indicative of deficient intelligence. But when you reach the lowest animals, oysters and sea-anemones, for instance, you find that baldness prevails.

AGONISTES.

Hairy men are vigorous, passionate, fond of fighting. Look at Samson, for instance, and the effect of cutting his comb. Esau, of course, was a fool, for he preferred pottage to patrimony, but he was probably more popular with the ladies of his period than his careful brother. That, however, may have been due to physical development rather than to æsthetic attraction. Hairy arms appear vigorous, but they seem to me repulsive—at least, when I behold them in Turkish baths. There is a suggestion of gorilla about a chest which bristles, and furry shoulder-blades are as Satanic as hairy heels. Hair, in fact, is the very devil—anyhow, an heritage from Simian ancestors.

ABSURDITY OF BALDNESS.

Yet the loss of hair is habitually deplored. When we begin to grow thin on the tops of our heads, we are suspected of antiquity, derided as decadents. Children might even ejaculate, "Go up, baldhead," if we had not a staff of she-bears in the background.

LONG LOCKS.

Beards, on the other hand (a beard in the hand is worth two anywhere else), have secured a spurious glamour almost capable of inspiring reverence. The Assyrian or fan-shaped beard, which glistens like molten gold, excites false pride, and even the Badinguet imperial is admired in elderly fops. A beardless sheikh would soon be relegated to the background. Yet long locks are the stigmata of poets, bimetallists and other incomprehensibles. We hesitate to acknowledge them, we regard them as unclean, we hound them through the streets with insulting refrains. Or we sum them up as foul foreigners. Yet it is only during the last generation or so that flowing hair has seemed to imply effeminacy. Homeric heroes were acclaimed for their glittering tresses, and Charles the First, our soldier-king, had curls as long as those of Cambyses.

WOMEN'S WILES.

I suppose most of us argue in deference to our own endowment or deficiencies. If we are growing thin on the tonsure, we assert that thick hair collects dirt; if we are well-covered, we pity shiny pates, which invite the perambulation of flies. But we agree with one consent that a woman's beauty depends largely, if not chiefly, on her hair. Many think that she cannot have too much of it, and this leads her to the vain, foolish, filthy habit of adding to her natural store by borrowing from the refuse of dead Chinese or of making pretence with cushions, pads and similar frauds. When I was a boy, I often wondered how it was that one never saw bald women. Well, I suppose they must be pardoned for covering up the nakedness of their crowns. Indeed, it seems almost indelicate of men to refrain from doing so. But it is difficult to feel patient with people who wear wigs unnecessarily. What madness, for instance, to clip nature's adornment and apply a mat of horse-hair, as fashionable people did for centuries, as silly lawyers do to this day!

DISAPPOINTING DYES.

Dyes again, should be discouraged. Of course, it would be very nice if all women could have bright red hair, but when they seek to obtain it artificially, the result clashes with the complexion, may even be grotesque. Far better remain mouse-coloured or piebald or flaxen, than run risks of a Condy mop or a similitude of scrambled eggs, or some monstrous shade of maroon. On the whole, I am rather glad that red hair cannot be imitated. I should hate it to become common. What fools our grandfathers must have been to think it ugly and call it carrots! And yet it does seem to disfigure a man. Perhaps our prejudice in this respect is due to reminiscences of Judas, but in gazing upon the fair sex we are to remember that Mary Magdalene had ruddy tresses. Red hair may sometimes illustrate a treacherous disposition, but surely it always goes with high spirits and good beefy complexions.

THE LANGUAGE OF HAIR.

I do not think I could ever admire anyone with absolutely flaxen hair. It is too suggestive of a grumpy Gretchen or squawking Scandinavian, perhaps rather of a wax doll's intelligence. But there is a sort of cinder colour, which can scarcely be called a colour at all and is sometimes attractive. Very black hair suggests villainy and uncleanness, probably as incorrectly as very white hair suggests venerability and daintiness. But why do grey hairs attract compassion? You hear pathetic appeals not to bring them with sorrow to the grave, but they do not necessarily imply great age or helplessness. Indeed, they are usually the appanage of persons in the prime of life.

THE TYRANNY OF TRESSES.

I wonder whether civilisation will ever teach us to dispense with hair. A great deal of time would be saved, and a certain amount of money. Think what armies of parasites are maintained to wash and cut and oil and crimp the covering of our heads. Look at all the bloated barbers who make an appreciable inroad on the incomes of the poor. Nor can you argue that hair has any redeeming uses. It does not even keep heads warm. Otherwise there would be no need of hats. And on other parts of the body it is merely an unsightly superfluity. Like weeds in a garden, it is almost impossible to eradicate. The more you cut it, the faster it grows, as bearded ladies know to their cost. Hair shirts are appropriately used for purposes of mortification.

HAIR-CURLERS.

The only hair I care to recommend is that which belongs to the dog that bit me. Can there be any more comforting cordial than the early cup of wine on the morrow of a carouse? Not to know this delight must be one of the worst hardships which water-bibbers voluntarily endure.

PARTED.

By "RETLAW."

He rose from the table and strode into the hall, a look of fixed determination on his face.

His sudden action filled her with nameless apprehensions. True, she had been talking. Perhaps she had said too much. He had listened so quietly that she had been tempted to give free vent to the surging thoughts that crowded to her tongue. And then he had pushed back his chair, almost violently, and left her without a word It seemed so strange, so unaccountable. Only three weeks married, and already—— Ah, me!

She pressed her hand to her heart, rose unsteadily, gropingly, and followed him from the room.

"Jack!" she gasped, stretching out one trembling, pleading hand. "You are leaving me! I know it! So soon, too; so soon!" She sobbed.

No man who is worthy of the name can hear unmoved the pitiful sound of a woman's weeping. His grim expression softened. He approached. He took her in his arms, and passionately kissed the beautiful though tear-stained face, upturned to meet his caresses.

A smile of ineffable sweetness and content irradiated her features.

"Ah, you will not leave me?" She whispered.

"I must, I must!" he muttered hoarsely, striving to put her from him; but she clung the closer.

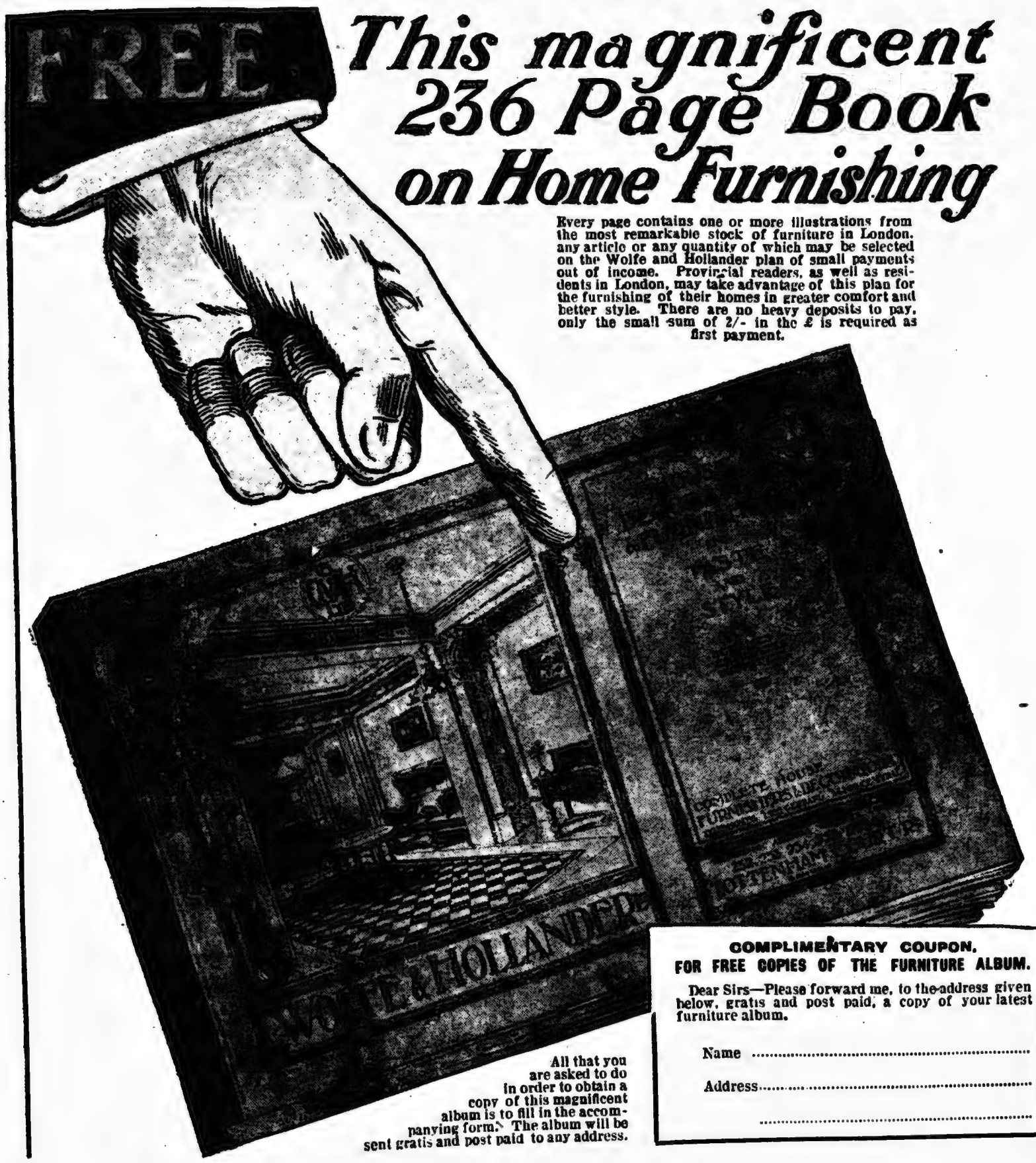
When the significance of his last words reached her brain she loosed her hold and staggered backwards like a stricken thing.

"You *must?*" she repeated questioningly, passing one white hand wearily across her brow. "What have I said, or done, that you should leave me thus?"

"Nothing," he replied, reaching for his hat. "The office opens an hour earlier this morning. We are starting a daylight saving scheme."

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

There is ample time before the Whitsun Holidays arrive to replace the old, worn furniture of the home—or to furnish the new home you are now establishing—with Wolfe and Hollander furniture—furniture of the very highest quality, long wearing and quite moderate in price. You are welcomed to take advantage of the firm's unique system of payments out of income, choosing your goods at cash prices, only adding 5 per cent. to the total cost for the convenience of deferring payments over one, two or three years. You are invited to call and inspect the magnificent stock at the showrooms, 252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C., but if you cannot call send to-day for a copy of the splendid Wolfe and Hollander furniture album.



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I suppose most of us argue in deference to our own endowment or deficiencies. If we are growing thin on the tonsure, we assert that thick hair collects dirt; if we are well-covered, we pity shiny pates, which invite the perambulation of flies. But we agree with one consent that a woman's beauty depends largely, if not chiefly, on her hair. Many think that she cannot have too much of it, and this leads her to the vain, foolish, filthy habit of adding to her natural store by borrowing from the refuse of dead Chinese or of making pretence with cushions, pads and similar frauds. When I was a boy, I often wondered how it was that one never saw bald women. Well, I suppose they must be pardoned for covering up the nakedness of their crowns. Indeed, it seems almost indelicate of men to refrain from doing so. But it is difficult to feel patient with people who wear wigs unnecessarily. What madness, for instance, to clip nature's adornment and apply a mat of horse-hair, as fashionable people did for centuries as silly lawyers do to this day!

Disappointing Dyes.

Dyes again, should be discouraged. Of course, it would be very nice if all women could have bright red hair, but when they seek to obtain it artificially, the result clashes with the complexion, may even be grotesque. Far better remain mouse-coloured or piebald or flaxen, than run risks of a Condy mop or a similitude of scrambled eggs, or some monstrous shade of maroon. On the whole, I am rather glad that red hair cannot be imitated. I should hate it to become common. What fools our grandfathers must have been to think it ugly and call it carrots! And yet it does seem to disfigure a man. Perhaps our prejudice in this respect is due to reminiscences of Judas, but in gazing upon the fair sex we are to remember that Mary Magdalene had ruddy tresses. Red hair may sometimes illustrate a treacherous disposition, but surely it always goes with high spirits and good beefy complexions.

The Language of Hair.

I do not think I could ever admire anyone with absolutely flaxen hair. It is too suggestive of a grumpy Gretchen or squawking Scandinavian, perhaps rather of a wax doll's intelligence. But there is a sort of cinder colour, which can scarcely be called a colour at all and is sometimes attractive. Very black hair suggests villainy and uncleanness, probably as incorrectly as very white hair suggests venerability and daintiness. But why do grey hairs attract compassion? You hear pathetic appeals not to bring them with sorrow to the grave, but they do not necessarily imply great age or helplessness. Indeed, they are usually the appanage of persons in the prime of life.

The Tyranny of Tresses.

I wonder whether civilisation will ever teach us to dispense with hair. A great deal of time would be saved, and a certain amount of money. Think what armies of parasites are maintained to wash and cut and oil and crimp the covering of our heads. Look at all the bloated barbers who make an appreciable inroad on the incomes of the poor. Nor can you argue that hair has any redeeming uses. It does not even keep heads warm. Otherwise there would be no need of hats. And on other parts of the body it is merely an unsightly superfluity. Like weeds in a garden, it is almost impossible to eradicate. The more you cut it, the faster it grows, as bearded ladies know to their cost. Hair shirts are appropriately used for purposes of mortification.

Hair-Curlers.

The only hair I care to recommend is that which belongs to the dog that bit me. Can there be any more comforting cordial than the early cup of wine on the morrow of a carouse? Not to know this delight must be one of the worst hardships which water-bibbers voluntarily endure.

PARTED.

By "Retlaw."

He rose from the table and strode into the hall, a look of fixed determination on his face.

His sudden action filled her with nameless apprehensions. True, she had been talking. Perhaps she had said too much. He had listened so quietly that she had been tempted to give free vent to the surging thoughts that crowded to her tongue. And then he had pushed back his chair, almost violently, and left her without a word It seemed so strange, so unaccountable. Only three weeks married, and already—— Ah, me!

She pressed her hand to her heart, rose unsteadily, gropingly, and followed him from the room.

"Jack!" she gasped, stretching out one trembling, pleading hand. "You are leaving me! I know it! So soon, too; so soon!" She sobbed.

No man who is worthy of the name can hear unmoved the pitiful sound of a woman's weeping. His grim expression softened. He approached. He took her in his arms, and passionately kissed the beautiful though tear-stained face, upturned to meet his caresses.

A smile of ineffable sweetness and content irradiated her features.

"Ah, you will not leave me?" She whispered.

"I must, I must!" he muttered hoarsely, striving to put her from him; but she clung the closer.

When the significance of his last words reached her brain she loosed her hold and staggered backwards like a stricken thing.

"You *must?*" she repeated questioningly, passing one white hand wearily across her brow. "What have I said, or done, that you should leave me thus?"

"Nothing," he replied, reaching for his hat. "The office opens an hour earlier this morning. We are starting a daylight saving scheme."

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

There is ample time before the Whitsun Holidays arrive to replace the old, worn furniture of the home—or to furnish the new home you are now establishing—with Wolfe and Hollander furniture—furniture of the very highest quality, long wearing and quite moderate in price. You are welcomed to take advantage of the firm's unique system of payments out of income, choosing your goods at cash prices, only adding 5 per cent. to the total cost for the convenience of deferring payments over one, two or three years. You are invited to call and inspect the magnificent stock at the showrooms, 252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.C., but if you cannot call send to-day for a copy of the splendid Wolfe and Hollander furniture album.

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Senator Smith (of Grand Rapids, Washington, Mich., U.S.A.).

MY DEAR SMITH,—By the time thet you're in receipt of this yar letter you'll be right through with thet Washington inquiry or yourn consarnin' the *Titanic*, an' will hev set down tew gloat over the picters ov the solem proceedin's, ov Smith full face, Smith side face, Smith three-quarter face, Smith deep in thought, Smith expansive, Smith illuminative, an' Smith in other attitudes, poses, an' contortions peculiar tew the Yankee in sarch ov a univarsal fame. At the time ov writin', this yar ole world's full ov photographs, cinematographs, an' oleographs, with Smith in the middle ov them all. Fact is, Senator Smith is now better known throughout the entire univarse than either Brown, Robinson, or Jones. Yew've ben translated inter Latin ez Smithus; y'r name rings through the streets ov the Eternal City ez Smithi; the Dutch an' the Jarmans hev ben lis'nin' breathless to y'r accents as Schmidt; the one topic ov social convarsation in Paris is Smeets; St. Petersburg an' Moscow an' other cities ov the Rooshian empire hev paused fer hours in the midst ov pressin' biz tew hear the vairy latest of Smitowski; while in Warsaw the whole poperlation hev ben settin' around hypnotised with the parsonality ov Schmittiweiski. The doin's ov Smeeth hev captered the imagination ov Iceland; right away in Mexico they've ben discussin' Smitri ever since they first saw him in the limelight an' larned ov his detarmination tew stay thar; in Athens an' other parts ov Greece they're thinkin' ov puttin' up a statoo to him in the name ov Sinikton; in Tarkey they're willin' tew make over tew him an upterdate harem under the cognomen ov Seef; an' tew crown all yew kin figger fer yourself the glorious spectacle ov Mr. Lloyd George eloquently discoursin' on the suparlative merits ov Schmidd among the mountains ov his native Wales.

Ef this yar ain't fame, my dear Senator, yew kin take a noo hat tew a gill ov the Grand Rapids that it ain't tew be got on the Amurric'n side ov Jordan. Yew don't ketch me revealin' no secrets ef I kno' it, but I kin tell yew, without betrayin' any ov the precious confidences entrusted tew me, thet the two houses ov the United States legislature air arranging tew subscribe a national memorial fer yew consistin' ov a leather medal an' a tin ov the finest pig squeal ever raised in Chicago. Ez fer myself, I will on'y say thet the way yew made the pathetic victims ov yewr sarchin' cross-examination squirm when yew asked them if the water war wet, the ice in a condition ov frost, an' the bulkheads suitable fer human food at the time ov the catastrophy war worthy ov all praise; it sets an example tew Lord Mersey which I am autherized tew inform yew he will consider in all its bearin's. Yew might drop me a few lines when yew're through with lookin' at yewrself in the mirror, an' at the same time state whether yew'd be prepared tew come over this side ez a moosic hall turn or a permanent exhibit in the British Museum at a salary ov £500 a week. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Justice Bucknill, Royal Courts of Justice, London.

DEAR JUDGE,—Many people, as you know, are of opinion that Truth sits at the bottom of a well, but it has always been my opinion that she presides at an angling society. This is why I am bound to credit you when you told the Fly Fishers' Club at their annual dinner the other evening that you are a born poacher. Your lordship's story was that while out shooting on one occasion you showed a friend who was with you (a member of the Chancery Bar) how to "tickle" trout in a side stream, your movements being watched by a boy who accompanied you on the shoot. Revisiting the scene of your prowess the following year, you inquired for the boy. "Oh," was the reply, "he's in prison for tickling trout." From this it is evident that your lordship has had a narrow escape from the grip of the law, so please accept this as a warning to be more careful in the future. Some of the local justices are no respecters of persons, and I do not wish to see you sent down for 21 days' hard without the option. The King's Bench cannot very well spare *you*. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London.

DEAR MY LORD MAYOR,—From certain letters of inquiry which have reached me, I think it would stimulate public subscriptions to the *Titanic* Fund if your lordship would take an early occasion to state on what principle it is now being distributed and how it is intended to deal with it in the future. For instance, a number of my correspondents tell me they are withholding subscriptions until they are able to ascertain whether the whole amount sent in will be proportionately shared by the *Titanic* sufferers, or whether only the interest on the capital will be paid to them. It is pointed out to me that in the case of some other funds distributed on the interest principle, the beneficiaries never receive the full amount of the money subscribed. On this principle the demands on the revenue are a decreasing number year by year from various causes; and instead, for instance, of a death benefiting the rest of the survivors, it merely increases the accumulated capital, which at the end of a certain number of years yields interest with few claimants for it, and eventually becomes, I will not say the prey-but the support, of a number of parasitic officials, a heir, loom for lawyers, and a source of grants-in-aid for persons in no respect entitled to them.

In these circumstances, perhaps your lordship will think it well to state exactly what is in your mind, and that of your advisers. My own view is clear. Either the Postmaster-General or the Public Trustee should take charge of the Fund. May your lordship, last of a long line of Lord Mayors of London foremost in all works of public philanthropy, soon enjoy better health.

JOHN BULL.

To His Honour Judge Mellor, K.C., County Court, Manchester.

YOUR HONOUR,—I was very glad to note the vigour of your remarks in respect of the "Scotch Draper" who, having won and received £50 as a result of a betting transaction, tried to sneak out of his liability on losing £32 by pleading the Betting Act. Every man with a spark of honour or honesty in him would scorn to avoid his obligations to pay in such circumstances as were disclosed in your court, though there are men of another sort—men, for instance, like this Alexander Dobie, of Cringle Road, Levenshulme—who, while they are the first to make a fuss if they are not promptly paid when they win, are entirely without scruple in avoiding payment if they lose.

That the Betting Act may be a moral plea in specific cases, I am not concerned to deny. But, in this case, the bookmaker had dealt with the man, who was between 40 and 50 years of age, on straight lines; and I think you were right in holding that this man, who had set up the Betting Act to wriggle out of his debts of honour, had entered into a "fresh agreement" by promising to pay on consideration that the plaintiff did not report him to the committee of the sporting club of which they were both members. It therefore followed that there must be judgment for the plaintiff—a judgment to which most people will think he is both legally and morally entitled. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Justice Scrutton.

MY LORD,—Why do you think it derogatory for retired officers to run social clubs, and why do you advise them to drop their military titles? Surely there is nothing improper in providing opportunities for friendly intercourse. If the State were a little more generous in the matter of pensions for young veterans, there might be some excuse for safeguarding their dignity by condemning them to lazy lives. You are usually so very sensible and broad-minded! JOHN BULL.

Secretary, Society Tailors and Tailoresses, London.

Why strike at this time of year? You may think it fitting occasion, but in public opinion doesn't suit. BULL.

Clerk, Guardians, Balrothery, Ireland.

Inform Guardians glad learn have decided supply inmates workhouse knives and forks after complaint inspector. True fingers made before either knives *or* forks—but not *their* fingers. BULL.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

A WHITE (STAR) WASHING COMMISSION.

JOHN BULL (doing a little inquiring himself): "Ah, I see! Going to whitewash the 'White Star'—eh?"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

THE NIGERIAN TIN GAMBLE—THE DANGERS OF SPECULATION.

I drew special attention in the issue of April 27th to the circumstances under which *Benue Mines* rose to over 6, owing to the late manager of the mine, on coming home, having extolled the attractions of this tin property to an extraordinary extent, so much so that when the ship came in the passengers rushed off at once to telegraph buying orders of *Benues*. Hence came the rise from 3¼ to 6⅛. The latest news is altogether different, and instead of a mountain of tin, the subsequent cable from the company's present manager stated with reference to the optimistic report by the ex-manager, that there was no justification for statements at present as to extraordinary value of new discovery, although, he added, "indications favourable." The shares then fell to 3½, and now are not much better. This certainly is not encouraging, neither is the total absence of further official news from the *Anglo-Continental* property, the shares in which are slowly rallying at 2½. *Keffi* have passed through their special settlement remarkably well, and the company has now a large number of shareholders. The chief interest will now centre in the future cable advices from some of the reliable experts who have been sent out to report on the *Anglo-Continental* properties, and whether it be the *West Australian Mines* or the *Consolidated Goldfields*, or any other company, I consider that it is absolutely indispensable that cables on the position of these mines should, in the interests of the shareholders, at once be published. Some of the cheapest low-priced mines I consider to be *Berrida*, *Naraguta Extended*, and *Rukuba*, and no doubt sooner or later these will rally. In the meantime, tin has been remarkably firm, and although a jump to £215 has not been maintained, the price is higher than it ever has been for any length of time, owing to a continued demand for consumption, encouraged as it is by the statistical position. From some of the minor companies news has now been received, and it is stated that a quantity of the payable alluvial has been located on No. 5 lease of the Ninghi. Then there was some news from the *Bauchi* of a discovery of coarse tin in the northern part of No. 263, but what really is wanted to set this market going again is a solution of the mystery of the *Anglo-Continental*. The market is taking some interest now in the 5s. shares of *Hausa (Nigeria), Limited*, one of the recent companies which has an expedition at work in the newly opened Ninkada country in charge of Mr. R. Grylls Thomas, A.I.M.M., formerly in the employ of companies controlled by Messrs. Wernher Beit and Co. The company will also interest itself in the flotation of suitable properties in Nigeria, and as the whole of the capital of £50,000 is available for working purposes, and the company has a first-class mining board, the 5s. shares, now 6s., are expected to go higher, whenever the market moves again. The annual meeting of the *Champion Tin* has been deferred, pending the return of Mr. Best, one of the directors, who will come home after having inspected the whole of the company's properties. *Gold Coast Cons. Lands* shares are steady at 3s. to 3s. 6d. There will no doubt be early news concerning this company's Nigerian interests from the director now out there.

OIL SHARES ON THE UP-GRADE—REMARKABLE GROWTH OF THE CONSUMPTION—FIFTY NEW COMPANIES.

The market for Maikop shares is not so strong as it has been, yet both the *Maikop Victory* and *Black Sea Oilfields* are maintaining an increased output with remarkable facility. Both have paid dividends, and will pay more in the near future, having producing wells, for the product of which high prices are being paid. *California Oilfields* were sold from the North, but have rallied again. *Grozny Oilfields* are remarkably strong at 1½, and will no doubt continue to meet a strong demand in view of the expectation of a big gusher. *Kuban Black Sea Preferred Ordinary* are certainly cheap at 1/16 to ⅛ premium. *Mexican Eagles* are below the best, but the outlook appears favourable, while *Standard Oil of Mexico "A"* are improving again at 4s. 3d., "*B*" at 1/16. The outlook in Trinidad is satisfactory, and *Trinidad United* look promising at 11/16. *Egyptian Oil Trust and Red Sea Oilfields* have also been well supported, while *Ural Caspian* after a decline have resumed their advance. *Premier Oil and Pipe Line* are changing hands at 21s. 6d. to 22s. 6d., cum the quarterly dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, which leaves a considerable margin for an advance. The company is rapidly increasing its output, and has become a steady dividend payer, while some important news is pending. A considerable improvement has taken place during the last few days in *Shell Transports* and also in *Spies*, which points to the resumption of purchases for Continental account. The fact is that consumption is increasing faster than the very active production, and the price of oil is rising. The sudden drop in the monthly production of *Lobitos* is distinctly disappointing for the operators connected with these, and I am not surprised that the quotation should have fallen sharply, while dividend anticipations seem to be altogether exaggerated. There is a talk of a further issue of £50,000 *Ten per Cent. Cumulative Participating Preference* shares by the *Santa Maria Oilfields of California*, but it seems to me doubtful whether this will be at all welcomed. In fact, I hear that fifty new companies are ready for issue. In the meantime, the shares of the *Mid-European Oil Company, Ltd.*, and of the *Consolidated Oilfields of Trinidad* have been introduced on the Stock Exchange, about which I shall have something to say next week.

SPECULATION RUN MAD—P. AND O.; ROYAL MAIL; MARCONIS, ETC.

It is said that there is often a method in madness, and this probably has been the case with the huge speculation which has been going on in the miscellaneous department, but which must surely, sooner or later, come to an end, when it will be a case of "Devil take the hindmost." We have, for instance, seen *P. and O. Deferred* come a cropper during the past week, by breaking right away from 405 to 310, and being now quoted about midway between these two figures. Whether or not the stock has been bought for control, and the directors have taken defensive measures by issuing a huge amount of new stock, it is not for me to say; but those who want to sleep peacefully at night should not dabble in this kind of stock. The same remark applies to *Royal Mail* at anything like their present quotation, and I have a shrewd suspicion that when the new issue has been placed, the stock will be allowed to find its own level again. Now about Marconis! I do not say that the market in these shares is altogether tottering to its fall, but I would point out that at anything like the present price the possibilities of the future are discounted with a vengeance. The company cannot at present make sufficient profits to warrant a valuation of anything like £7 to £8 per share, and it may be years before it is able to do so. The market, therefore, depends upon whether those investors who have taken up the stock will continue to hold the same, or will be tempted to take their profits. But, as I am writing, a fresh fall is reported to 6⅞. I had anticipated that *Van den Berghs* would increase their dividend, but evidently more conservative views have prevailed with the directors, and they have been content to pay the same handsome dividend as for the last three years—viz., 17½ per cent. The year was prosperous, but, after all, it is the best plan to ensure the maintenance of the dividend of 17½ per cent. for two or three years to come. Even on that basis, and on the present price of 49s. cum. dividend the shares yield upwards of 7 per cent. This leaves a credit balance of £200,000 to be carried forward. *Telephone Deferred* calls for notice next, and it is said that the company are claiming about £21,000,000 as the purchase-price for the undertaking, but whether they will get it is, of course, another matter. It will doubtless take a long time before the Commissioners reach a decision.

LAMSON PARAGON SUPPLY CO.—SOME QUERIES.

Several correspondents have drawn my attention to certain items in the balance-sheet of this company, covering the twelve months ended January 31, 1912. Although I say this in no carping spirit, I certainly think that these queries call for some explanation, especially in view of the decision of the board not to write off further depreciation this year, on the strength of a re-valuation of the assets which has been made. In the first place, some explanation should be given of the method of arriving at £114,067, as value of investments in various auxiliary and other trading companies, taken at cost, but for which there is no market quotation. Then, again, the item "goodwill and patents, patent rights, and trade marks, as per last balance-sheet" stands at £51,105, which seems far too high in comparison with the issued capital of £373,902. Further, it would be interesting to know the meaning of the item "contingent liabilities in respect of guarantee to banks for advances to auxiliary companies, £11,550," not included in the balance-sheet, and what security the company has for the same. The company was established in 1902, and recent dividends have been at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum. It would be a pity if doubt were thrown upon its financial position by the absence of any adequate explanation of the items.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

A SOUND INDUSTRIAL

We direct special attention to the prospectus and other particulars relating to Odhams Limited appearing in this number. The directors are making an issue of 50,000 6 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares of £1 each, which are entitled in addition to the fixed rate of 6 per cent. to share in the surplus profits after payment of a similar dividend upon the ordinary shares. Odhams is a household word in the printing and publishing trade and we anticipate that the issue will be rapidly over-subscribed. It is one of the soundest industrials which have come upon the market during the past few years.

THE HOULDER LINE.

The shareholders of the Houlder Line must be of a very long-suffering nature. On November 16, 1910, and in subsequent issues, we called attention to the affairs of the Houlder Line, which is managed by a separate company, "Houlder Brothers and Co." We pointed out the unsatisfactory financial position the company was in, and our criticisms were never answered. In fact, they were abundantly proved to be correct both by the Annual Report and Balance-sheet for 1909, issued in December, 1910, and again by the last Balance-sheet, and the admissions of the chairman at the last meeting of the "Line," held in November, 1911. At both these meetings the chairman promised reorganisation and reconstruction of the Houlder Line's affairs, stating that a new management agreement should be brought forward. But it is clear that the directors of Houlder Brothers and Co. are most anxious to hang on to the old agreement as long as possible. It is well known that one of the principal assets of this company is the money received in connection with the management of the Line and its various perquisites. The chairman, Mr. Frank Houlder, has recently stated that he and his colleagues on the board of Houlder Brothers own the bulk of the ordinary share capital of that company, and we observe that the remuneration of the managing directors is charged at £8,560 10s. 9d. Yet the shareholders of the "Line," whether preference or ordinary, have not received one farthing dividend, in the one case since 1903, and in the other since 1902!

HUGGINS' BREWERY.

This company was registered in 1896 with a 4½ per cent. debenture stock, the ordinary shares being taken by the family. This, as times go, does not seem an inflated rate of interest in an industrial concern; but the Huggins family thought otherwise, and, accordingly, the company was reconstituted in 1898, and the interest on the first charge "irredeemable debenture stock" cut down to 3½ per cent, and certain preference (4½ per cent.) and ordinary shares were issued to the public, the "privilege" of taking up the stock being accorded to those who underwrote it. An extraordinary meeting for reconstruction has now been held, when the resolution was carried by the proxies, and the second meeting will have been held before these lines are read, and probably the result will be the same. The £10 ordinary shares are to be practically wiped out by being written down from £10 to 10s. each. The cumulative preference shares of £10 each are to be reduced to £4 each; they are also to lose their preference rights, and, further, to forfeit the unpaid cumulative preference interest of some years. The reduction in capital written off as utterly lost will amount to £632,499, which includes £234,933, part of the amount paid for goodwill, that is, the name of "Huggins."

KENT COLLIERIES.

As we mentioned last week, an important movement is on foot in the shares of this company. The practicability of the scheme is no longer in doubt. The railway waggons are at work, and from all we hear we expect soon to see the shares at a much higher price. As the *Daily Chronicle* says, we shall soon all be burning Kent coal.

MR. OSBORN O'HAGAN

We are glad to hear of an improvement in Mr. O'Hagan's health, and that he hopes shortly to be in the City again.

MR. BOTTOMLEY

at the

Queen's Hall, Langham Place,

Saturday, May 11th.

City men and others requiring Tickets should apply Immediately.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

OIL SHARES.—V. M.—If you go into such shares, you must regard them as a pure speculation, not an investment. Bearing this in view, you might spread the amount over Grozny Oilfields, Trinidad United, and Standard of Mexico "A." H. L. L.—You should sit tight in connection with your Maikop Valley Prefs. The Maikop Field generally is justifying its existence, and the improvement should presently extend also to the Maikop Valley Company.

OIL AND RUBBER SHARES.—UNCERTAIN.—No recent information is at present available as regards any of these Companies. (1) New Zealand Oils should presently also share in the rally in that market. (2, 3, and 4) No option but to hold, pending a general improvement in the rubber share market.

SPECULATION.—P. F. T.—The firm mentioned by you are respectable, and they are members of the Stock Exchange, but I cannot tell you anything about their means.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—W. B. (Edinburgh).—I do not as a matter of principle recommend outside brokers, and I should doubt whether the information referred to would be reliable. If you wish the name of a thoroughly reliable and intelligent firm of stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange, I can forward it to you.

INTEREST IN WILL.—J. H. W.—If you are certain of the contents of the will, why do you not advise one of the brothers to apply direct to the trustees? That surely is the first step to be taken, and you will soon know how you stand.

OPTION TRANSACTIONS.—L. B. (Berlin).—(1) Yes, it is quite usual to charge contangoes in such cases, but you will find it more satisfactory in the long run to deal direct with a broker, of course a member of the Stock Exchange. (2) May 1st. (3) This has been attended to.

BOOK CANVASSING.—W. K.—This personal canvassing for the sale of books is a great nuisance, and I am surprised that you allowed yourself to be caught. The question chiefly turns upon whether you have signed an order. You say you are not sure whether you have signed a form. If you have not done so, you would certainly have a complete defence in the County Court. If, on the other hand, you have signed a positive order, I cannot see how you can get out of it. People ought to be very careful as to signing documents of that kind.

TRUST CORPORATIONS.—ARDCHYLE.—It is quite correct that both these concerns rank amongst the best of Trust Companies, and the only objection I have to fixed deposits is that they entail the locking up of one's resources for a lengthy period. In my opinion, you can do better by placing your money in sound securities, which are, moreover, easily realisable should occasion arise.

VARIOUS SPECS.—VITA.—(1) Yes, Standard of Mexico "A" should be held for a substantial improvement. (2) I do not like these shares. (3) A fair gamble amongst low-priced gold mines. (4) You do not say at what price you bought Chathams, but you should always remember that no one was ever ruined by taking profits. (5) The Maikop division offers greater opportunities.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

STANDING OF INSURANCE COMPANY.—INQUIRER (Wakefield).—I do not think that this Company has any particular standing, but I really cannot advise you any further. You had better consult a local solicitor. You know the uncertainties of law.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A. J. T. (Fulham), A. G. (Edburton), T. S. M. (Blantyre), and C. S. (Rochester).—The policy is illegal, and the premium can be recovered in the County Court. R. J. B. (Liverpool).—The facts are insufficient to advise. Write me fuller. R. E. S.—You cannot recover the premiums paid. A. T. T. (Tottenham).—The policies forwarded are quite in order. No halfpenny polices are issued by the Prudential. The investment is a very bad one.

PEARL LIFE.—As you have accepted a free policy in one case, and have allowed the other to lapse, I do not see how you can do anything

PEARL.—J. M.—There has apparently been a misunderstanding. It is not absolutely necessary that the signatures of assured parents should be added to the proposals, but it must not be done without the knowledge of the parents. The office can, however, insist upon the signature to the proposal.

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REFUGE.—M. M. (Holloway).—Write to the joint managers, Messrs. R. W. Green and Philip Smith, in Manchester, and represent your claim to them. I cannot believe that they would countenance unfair quibbling.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA.—T. F. H.—The surrender value offered is very inadequate. If the Company's representative persuaded you to insure your father's life without the latter's knowledge, you might claim the return of the premiums paid. The correspondence is returned.

ASSURED IN SOUTH AFRICA.—M. Z. (Blackpool).—This matter is complicated by the disappearance of the insured man. The agent has evidently dealt badly with you, and possibly not informed the office. Nor had you any insurable interest in the life. You should claim the return of the premiums paid, as the whole matter is illegal. Apply direct to the head office. The documents are returned.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential." Owing to the thousands of inquiries which have been received, some little delay in dealing with them is unavoidable, but every endeavour is being made to expedite matters.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

THE NIGERIAN TIN GAMBLE—THE DANGERS OF SPECULATION.

I drew special attention in the issue of April 27th to the circumstances under which *Benue Mines* rose to over 6, owing to the late manager of the mine, on coming home, having extolled the attractions of this tin property to an extraordinary extent, so much so that when the ship came in the passengers rushed off at once to telegraph buying orders of *Benues*. Hence came the rise from 3¼ to 6½. The latest news is altogether different, and instead of a mountain of tin, the subsequent cable from the company's present manager stated with reference to the optimistic report by the ex-manager, that there was no justification for statements at present as to extraordinary value of new discovery, although, he added, "indications favourable." The shares then fell to 3½, and now are not much better. This certainly is not encouraging, neither is the total absence of further official news from the *Anglo-Continental* property, the shares in which are slowly rallying at 2½. *Keffi* have passed through their special settlement remarkably well, and the company has now a large number of shareholders. The chief interest will now centre in the future cable advices from some of the reliable experts who have been sent out to report on the *Anglo-Continental* properties, and whether it be the *West Australian Mines* or the *Consolidated Goldfields*, or any other company, I consider that it is absolutely indispensable that cables on the position of these mines should, in the interests of the shareholders, at once be published. Some of the cheapest low-priced mines I consider to be *Berrida*, *Naraguta Extended*, and *Rukuba*, and no doubt sooner or later these will rally. In the meantime, tin has been remarkably firm, and although a jump to £215 has not been maintained, the price is higher than it ever has been for any length of time, owing to a continued demand for consumption, encouraged as it is by the statistical position. From some of the minor companies news has now been received, and it is stated that a quantity of the payable alluvial has been located on No. 5 lease of the Ninghi. Then there was some news from the *Bauchi* of a discovery of coarse tin in the northern part of No. 263, but what really is wanted to set this market going again is a solution of the mystery of the *Anglo-Continental*. The market is taking some interest now in the 5s. shares of *Hausa (Nigeria), Limited*, one of the recent companies which has an expedition at work in the newly opened Ninkada country in charge of Mr. R. Grylls Thomas, A.I.M.M., formerly in the employ of companies controlled by Messrs. Wernher Beit and Co. The company will also interest itself in the flotation of suitable properties in Nigeria, and as the whole of the capital of £50,000 is available for working purposes, and the company has a first-class mining board, the 5s. shares, now 6s., are expected to go higher, whenever the market moves again. The annual meeting of the *Champion Tin* has been deferred, pending the return of Mr. Best, one of the directors, who will come home after having inspected the whole of the company's properties. *Gold Coast Cons. Lands* shares are steady at 3s. to 3s. 6d. There will no doubt be early news concerning this company's Nigerian interests from the director now out there.

OIL SHARES ON THE UP-GRADE—REMARKABLE GROWTH OF THE CONSUMPTION—FIFTY NEW COMPANIES.

The market for Maikop shares is not so strong as it has been, yet both the *Maikop Victory* and *Black Sea Oilfields* are maintaining an increased output with remarkable facility. Both have paid dividends, and will pay more in the near future, having producing wells, for the product of which high prices are being paid. *California Oilfields* were sold from the North, but have rallied again. *Grozny Oilfields* are remarkably strong at 1½, and will no doubt continue to meet a strong demand in view of the expectation of a big gusher. *Kuban Black Sea Preferred Ordinary* are certainly cheap at ⅛ to ¼ premium. *Mexican Eagles* are below the best, but the outlook appears favourable, while *Standard Oil of Mexico "A"* are improving again at 4s. 3d., "*B*" at ⅛. The outlook in Trinidad is satisfactory, and *Trinidad United* look promising at ⅛. *Egyptian Oil Trust and Red Sea Oilfields* have also been well supported, while *Ural Caspian* after a decline have resumed their advance. *Premier Oil and Pipe Line* are changing hands at 21s. 6d. to 22s. 6d., cum the quarterly dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, which leaves a considerable margin for an advance. The company is rapidly increasing its output, and has become a steady dividend payer, while some important news is pending. A considerable improvement has taken place during the last few days in *Shell Transports* and also in *Spies*, which points to the resumption of purchases for Continental account. The fact is that consumption is increasing faster than the very active production, and the price of oil is rising. The sudden drop in the monthly production of *Lobitos* is distinctly disappointing for the operators connected with these, and I am not surprised that the quotation should have fallen sharply, while dividend anticipations seem to be altogether exaggerated. There is a talk of a further issue of £50,000 *Ten per Cent. Cumulative Participating Preference* shares by the *Santa Maria Oilfields of California*, but it seems to me doubtful whether this will be at all welcomed. In fact, I hear that fifty new companies are ready for issue. In the meantime, the shares of the *Mid-European Oil Company, Ltd.*, and of the *Consolidated Oilfields of Trinidad* have been introduced on the Stock Exchange, about which I shall have something to say next week.

SPECULATION RUN MAD—P. AND O.; ROYAL MAIL; MARCONIS, ETC.

It is said that there is often a method in madness, and this probably has been the case with the huge speculation which has been going on in the miscellaneous department, but which must surely, sooner or later, come to an end, when it will be a case of "Devil take the hindmost." We have, for instance, seen *P. and O. Deferred* come a cropper during the past week, by breaking right away from 405 to 310, and being now quoted about midway between these two figures. Whether or not the stock has been bought for control, and the directors have taken defensive measures by issuing a huge amount of new stock, it is not for me to say; but those who want to sleep peacefully at night should not dabble in this kind of stock. The same remark applies to *Royal Mail* at anything like their present quotation, and I have a shrewd suspicion that when the new issue has been placed, the stock will be allowed to find its own level again. Now about Marconis! I do not say that the market in these shares is altogether tottering to its fall, but I would point out that at anything like the present price the possibilities of the future are discounted with a vengeance. The company cannot at present make sufficient profits to warrant a valuation of anything like £7 to £8 per share, and it may be years before it is able to do so. The market, therefore, depends upon whether those investors who have taken up the stock will continue to hold the same, or will be tempted to take their profits. But, as I am writing, a fresh fall is reported to 6⅞. I had anticipated that *Van den Berghs* would increase their dividend, but evidently more conservative views have prevailed with the directors, and they have been content to pay the same handsome dividend as for the last three years—viz., 17½ per cent. The year was prosperous, but, after all, it is the best plan to ensure the maintenance of the dividend of 17½ per cent. for two or three years to come. Even on that basis, and on the present price of 49s. cum. dividend the shares yield upwards of 7 per cent. This leaves a credit balance of £200,000 to be carried forward. *Telephone Deferred* calls for notice next, and it is said that the company are claiming about £21,000,000 as the purchase-price for the undertaking, but whether they will get it is, of course, another matter. It will doubtless take a long time before the Commissioners reach a decision.

LAMSON PARAGON SUPPLY CO.—SOME QUERIES.

Several correspondents have drawn my attention to certain items in the balance-sheet of this company, covering the twelve months ended January 31, 1912. Although I say this in no carping spirit, I certainly think that these queries call for some explanation, especially in view of the decision of the board not to write off further depreciation this year, on the strength of a re-valuation of the assets which has been made. In the first place, some explanation should be given of the method of arriving at £114,067, as value of investments in various auxiliary and other trading companies, taken at cost, but for which there is no market quotation. Then, again, the item "goodwill and patents, patent rights, and trade marks, as per last balance-sheet" stands at £51,105, which seems far too high in comparison with the issued capital of £373,902. Further, it would be interesting to know the meaning of the item "contingent liabilities in respect of guarantee to banks for advances to auxiliary companies, £11,550," not included in the balance-sheet, and what security the company has for the same. The company was established in 1902, and recent dividends have been at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum. It would be a pity if doubt were thrown upon its financial position by the absence of any adequate explanation of the items.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

A SOUND INDUSTRIAL.

We direct special attention to the prospectus and other particulars relating to Odhams Limited appearing in this number. The directors are making an issue of 50,000 6 per cent. cumulative participating preference shares of £1 each, which are entitled in addition to the fixed rate of 6 per cent. to share in the surplus profits after payment of a similar dividend upon the ordinary shares. Odhams is a household word in the printing and publishing trade and we anticipate that the issue will be rapidly over-subscribed. It is one of the soundest industrials which have come upon the market during the past few years.

THE HOULDER LINE.

The shareholders of the Houlder Line must be of a very long-suffering nature. On November 16, 1910, and in subsequent issues, we called attention to the affairs of the Houlder Line, which is managed by a separate company, "Houlder Brothers and Co." We pointed out the unsatisfactory financial position the company was in, and our criticisms were never answered. In fact, they were abundantly proved to be correct both by the Annual Report and Balance-sheet for 1909, issued in December, 1910, and again by the last Balance-sheet, and the admissions of the chairman at the last meeting of the "Line," held in November, 1911. At both these meetings the chairman promised reorganisation and reconstruction of the Houlder Line's affairs, stating that a new management agreement should be brought forward. But it is clear that the directors of Houlder Brothers and Co. are most anxious to hang on to the old agreement as long as possible. It is well known that one of the principal assets of this company is the money received in connection with the management of the Line and its various perquisites. The chairman, Mr. Frank Houlder, has recently stated that he and his colleagues on the board of Houlder Brothers own the bulk of the ordinary share capital of that company, and we observe that the remuneration of the managing directors is charged at £8,560 10s. 9d. Yet the shareholders of the "Line," whether preference or ordinary, have not received one farthing dividend, in the one case since 1903, and in the other since 1902!

HUGGINS' BREWERY.

This company was registered in 1896 with a 4½ per cent. debenture stock, the ordinary shares being taken by the family. This, as times go, does not seem an inflated rate of interest in an industrial concern; but the Huggins family thought otherwise, and, accordingly, the company was reconstituted in 1898, and the interest on the first charge "irredeemable debenture stock" cut down to 3½ per cent, and certain preference (4½ per cent.) and ordinary shares were issued to the public, the "privilege" of taking up the stock being accorded to those who underwrote it. An extraordinary meeting for reconstruction has now been held, when the resolution was carried by the proxies, and the second meeting will have been held before these lines are read, and probably the result will be the same. The £10 ordinary shares are to be practically wiped out by being written down from £10 to 10s. each. The cumulative preference shares of £10 each are to be reduced to £4 each; they are also to lose their preference rights, and, further, to forfeit the unpaid cumulative preference interest of some years. The reduction in capital written off as utterly lost will amount to £632,499, which includes £234,933, part of the amount paid for goodwill, that is, the name of "Huggins."

KENT COLLIERIES.

As we mentioned last week, an important movement is on foot in the shares of this company. The practicability of the scheme is no longer in doubt. The railway waggons are at work, and from all we hear we expect soon to see the shares at a much higher price. As the *Daily Chronicle* says, we shall soon all be burning Kent coal.

MR. OSBORN O'HAGAN

We are glad to hear of an improvement in Mr. O'Hagan's health, and that he hopes shortly to be in the City again.

MR. BOTTOMLEY

at the

Queen's Hall, Langham Place,

Saturday, May 11th.

City men and others requiring Tickets should apply Immediately.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

OIL SHARES.—V. M.—If you go into such shares, you must regard them as a pure speculation, not an investment. Bearing this in view, you might spread the amount over Grozny Oilfields, Trinidad United, and Standard of Mexico "A." H. L. L.—You should sit tight in connection with your Maikop Valley Prefs. The Maikop Field generally is justifying its existence, and the improvement should presently extend also to the Maikop Valley Company.

OIL AND RUBBER SHARES.—UNCERTAIN.—No recent information is at present available as regards any of these Companies. (1) New Zealand Oils should presently also share in the rally in that market. (2, 3, and 4) No option but to hold, pending a general improvement in the rubber share market.

SPECULATION.—P. F. T.—The firm mentioned by you are respectable, and they are members of the Stock Exchange, but I cannot tell you anything about their means.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—W. B. (Edinburgh).—I do not as a matter of principle recommend outside brokers, and I should doubt whether the information referred to would be reliable. If you wish the name of a thoroughly reliable and intelligent firm of stockbrokers, members of the Stock Exchange, I can forward it to you.

INTEREST IN WILL.—J. H. W.—If you are certain of the contents of the will, why do you not advise one of the brothers to apply direct to the trustees? That surely is the first step to be taken, and you will soon know how you stand.

OPTION TRANSACTIONS.—L. B. (Berlin).—(1) Yes, it is quite usual to charge contangoes in such cases, but you will find it more satisfactory in the long run to deal direct with a broker, of course a member of the Stock Exchange. (2) May 1st. (3) This has been attended to.

BOOK CANVASSING.—W. K.—This personal canvassing for the sale of books is a great nuisance, and I am surprised that you allowed yourself to be caught. The question chiefly turns upon whether you have signed an order. You say you are not sure whether you have signed a form. If you have not done so, you would certainly have a complete defence in the County Court. If, on the other hand, you have signed a positive order, I cannot see how you can get out of it. People ought to be very careful as to signing documents of that kind.

TRUST CORPORATIONS.—ARDCRYLE.—It is quite correct that both these concerns rank amongst the best of Trust Companies, and the only objection I have to fixed deposits is that they entail the locking up of one's resources for a lengthy period. In my opinion, you can do better by placing your money in sound securities, which are, moreover, easily realisable should occasion arise.

VARIOUS SPECS.—VITA.—(1) Yes, Standard of Mexico "A" should be held for a substantial improvement. (2) I do not like these shares. (3) A fair gamble amongst low-priced gold mines. (4) You do not say at what price you bought Chathams, but you should always remember that no one was ever ruined by taking profits. (5) The Maikop division offers greater opportunities.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

STANDING OF INSURANCE COMPANY.—INQUIRER (Wakefield).—I do not think that this Company has any particular standing, but I really cannot advise you any further. You had better consult a local solicitor. You know the uncertainties of law.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A. J. T. (Fulham), A. G. (Edburton), T. S. M. (Blantyre), and C. S. (Rochester).—The policy is illegal, and the premium can be recovered in the County Court. R. J. B. (Liverpool).—The facts are insufficient to advise. Write me fuller. R. E. S.—You cannot recover the premiums paid. A. T. T. (Tottenham).—The policies forwarded are quite in order. No halfpenny polices are issued by the Prudential. The investment is a very bad one.

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**"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 610.*

The Subscription List will be closed on or before Thursday, the 16th day of May, 1912.

THIS PROSPECTUS HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE REGISTRAR OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

ODHAMS, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908.

Authorised Share Capital - - £100,000,

Of which £45,000 has been already issued in 45,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, and £5,000 in 5,000 Cumulative 6 per cent. Preference Shares of £1 each, which latter it is intended to convert so that they shall rank *pari passu* with the £50,000 Participating Preference Issue now offered. There is an issue of £35,000 Debentures.

THE COMPANY NOW INVITE APPLICATION FOR AN ISSUE OF

50,000 Six per cent. Cumulative Participating Preference Shares of £1 each.

These Cumulative Participating Preference Shares are entitled, in addition to the fixed rate of Six per cent., to share in the Surplus of Profits after payment of Six per cent. Dividend upon the Ordinary Shares, the amount of such further Dividend to which each Preference Share will be entitled being ½ per cent. for every One per cent. of Dividend exceeding Six per cent. declared on each Ordinary Share.

The Present Issue will carry Dividend from the dates upon which the instalments are paid.

It is proposed that after payment of the cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. on the Preference Shares, and before any dividend is paid upon the Ordinary Shares, 25 per cent. of the remaining profits of the Company in each year shall be carried to the Reserve Fund, until £50,000 has been so set aside.

THE SHARES ARE PAYABLE—

2s. 6d. on Application, 7s. 6d. on Allotment, and 10s. on June 30, 1912.

Calls paid in advance will carry interest at Six per cent. per annum.

DIRECTORS.

WILLIAM J. B. ODHAMS, Clovelly, Wood Lane, Highgate (*Managing Director*).
J. LYNCH ODHAMS, The Homestead, Southwick, Sussex.
CHAS. J. ODHAMS, Woodlawn, South Norwood, S.E.
J. S. ELIAS, Fairlight, Wood Lane, Highgate (*General Manager*).
JOHN C. POTTER, Westow, Keswick Road, Putney.
C. E. CURTIS, 120, Cromwell Road, S.W.
PERCIVAL J. NUNN. Eastnor, Sydenham Hill, S.E.

BANKERS.

THE CAPITAL & COUNTIES BANK, LTD., 35, King Street, Covent Garden, W.C.
HEAD OFFICE: 39, Threadneedle Street, E.C.; and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

HICKSON, MOIR & JEAKES, Blomfield House, New Broad Street, E.C.

AUDITORS.

FRANKLIN, WILD & CO., Chartered Accountants, Broad Street Avenue, E.C.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE.

ERNEST LYNCH ODHAMS, 93-94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

WORKS.

92, 93, 94, LONG ACRE, ENDELL STREET, WILSON STREET, AND ARNE STREET; AND 25, FLORAL STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.

PROSPECTUS.

THE Printing Business of WILLIAM ODHAMS was founded in 1847, and was amalgamated with its offshoot, ODHAMS BROTHERS, LIMITED, in 1898 under the present name. In 1906, the Offices and Works were removed to the commanding position at the corner of Long Acre and Endell Street, Covent Garden. Last year the extensive premises running along Wilson Street and Arne Street, at the rear and side, were added in order to cope with the expansion of the business.

The business consists mainly in the production of newspapers and periodicals of every class. While undertaking no editorial control over any of the periodicals concerned—for the Company prints newspapers of very diverse and sometimes opposing views—it has established and built up, in addition to the Printing Business, Publishing and Advertising Departments. Thus, in many cases, the entire business management of the Publications, including the Printing, Publishing, and Advertising, is in the hands of the Company. This close connection between the Printing and Publishing Departments is a matter of great convenience to the Proprietors of the Publications, who are thus left to devote themselves exclusively to the editorial aspects of their respective journals. This development has been a source of considerable profit to the Company, and has made them specialists in this kind of work. It is anticipated that there is every probability of the Company obtaining further work of a similar character, as the Proprietors of Periodicals realise the saving of expense by the abolition of a publishing office and staff for a single paper. The premises of the Company in Long Acre are held on leases, having about five years to run, but negotiations are on foot for the extension of the term for a long period.

The Company employs union labour exclusively, and its relations with its employees are and always have been satisfactory.

OBJECTS OF ISSUE.

The business has grown so rapidly during recent years that the Directors find it desirable to provide further Working Capital. Other objects of the present issue are to absorb the business of SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & CO., LIMITED, which has been for some time under the control of this Company, and in which this Company already holds a large interest, and to pay off debenture charges.

The complete amalgamation of the two Companies should result in a reduction of Working Expenses and consolidate the general management of the business.

SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT CONTRACTS.

The following are some of the more important contracts held by the two Companies:—

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.
BURLINGTON MAGAZINE.
CHURCH EVANGELIST.
COMMON CAUSE.
CONTRACTORS' TRADE JOURNAL.
COWKEEPER.
DARKEST RUSSIA.
ELECTRICITY.
EMPIRE ILLUSTRATED.
EXPORT WORLD.
FAIRPLAY.
FAMILY DOCTOR.
GOLDSMITHS' REVIEW.
GROCER.
HAIRDRESSERS' WEEKLY JOURNAL.
HARDWARE TRADE JOURNAL.
HEALTH.
HOME HANDICRAFTS.
INVESTOR'S CHRONICLE.
JOHN BULL.
LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.
LOTINGA'S WEEKLY.
MADAME.
MEDICAL PRESS.
MINE HOST.
MRS. BULL.
PARIS JOURNAL OF FANCY WORK AND FASHION.
PERFORMER.
RAILWAY TIMES.
SATURDAY INFORMATION.
SURVEYOR.
THRONE AND COUNTRY.
TRAMWAY WORLD.
TURF GUARDIAN.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHRONICLE.
WOODWORKER, ETC., ETC.

PROGRESS AND PROFITS.

The steady growth of the two businesses is shown by the Turnover during the past ten years, as follows:—

Year ending June 30.		Printing Department.		Publishing Department. (ODHAMS, LIMITED.) (First established in 1907.)
*1902	..	£62,263		
1903	..	68,067		
1904	..	75,301		
1905	..	72,753		
1906	..	76,577		
1907	..	76,063		
1908	..	88,920	..	£15,618 (9 months)
1909	..	103,852	..	50,351
1910	..	118,959	..	92,088
1911	..	177,160	..	174,469

* 13 months Odhams, Limited; 10 months Southwood, Smith and Co., Limited.

The Net Profits of ODHAMS, LIMITED, for the three years ending June 30th, 1911, as certified by their auditors, Messrs. FRANKLIN, WILD & COMPANY, Chartered Accountants, Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C., **after deduction for Depreciation of Plant and Machinery, Debenture Interest and other charges, including Directors' Fees, and Management share of profits, are as follows:—**

June 30, 1909	..	..	..	£5,657 10 1
,, 1910	..	..	..	6,550 19 2
,, 1911	..	..	..	13,745 7 3
A Total of	..	..	..	£25,953 17 6
Or an average of	..	..	..	£8,651 5 10

The Profits of SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LIMITED, for the same three years were practically absorbed by the payment of Debenture interest and expenses, interest on loans other than loans by ODHAMS, LIMITED, and Directors' fees. As it is intended to pay off the Debentures and loans referred to, and the Directors of ODHAMS, LIMITED, will conduct the amalgamated businesses without increased fees, the profits of the business of SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LIMITED, will be received by the Company without deduction in respect of these payments.

The net Profits of SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LIMITED, for the three years, on the basis mentioned—*i.e.*, if there had been no deduction for the interest expenses and fees aforesaid, as certified by their Auditor, Mr. PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, Chartered Accountant, 31, Copthall Avenue, London, E.C., would have been as under :—

June 30, 1909		£1,422 0 0
,, 1910		1,627 0 0
,, 1911		1,673 0 0
A Total of		£4,722 0 0
Or an average of		£1,574 0 0*

* Subject to the Management 10 per cent. share of profits (£157 8s.) under the agreements hereinafter referred to.

The Profits available for Dividend, based on the above figures, should therefore be as follows :—

ODHAMS, LIMITED	£8,651 5 10
SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LIMITED	1,416 12 0
Total	£10,067 17 10

It is anticipated, however, that these Profits will be still further increased by the balance of the additional Capital provided by the issue, after payment off of the SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co. Debentures and the charges incidental to the issue.

The net Profits of ODHAMS, LIMITED, for the half-year ended the 31st December, 1911, charging against reserve certain bad debts of an exceptional nature, and allowing for all charges other than management share of profits, were £6,700 8s. 8d. Those of SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LIMITED, calculated on the same basis as before, were £1,215. The united profits give a total of £7,915 8s. 8d. for the **half-year**, which total would be subject to a deduction of £791 for management share of profits. These figures have respectively been certified by the Accountants.

DIVIDENDS AND RESERVE.

In order to form a strong reserve, it is proposed that after payment of the cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. on the Preference Shares 25 per cent. of the remaining profits of the Company in each year shall be carried to the Reserve Fund until £50,000 has been so set aside.

Assuming the profits in future to be on the average of the last three years, it is estimated that they will permit of the following distribution :

Dividend on Preference Shares of 6 per cent. ..	£3,300 0 0
Reserve, being 25 per cent. of balance	1,691 19 5
Dividend (6 per cent.) on Ordinary Shares ..	2,700 0 0
Balance available for further distribution ..	2,375 18 5

allowing a further 1½ per cent. Dividend, or in all 7½ per cent., to the Preference Shares.

If, however, the rate of profit earned during the last year be maintained, the amount available for distribution would be as under :—

Dividend on Preference Shares of 6 per cent. ..	£3,300 0 0
Reserve, being 25 per cent. of balance	2,987 17 1
Dividend (6 per cent.) on Ordinary Shares ..	2,700 0 0
Balance available for further distribution ..	6,263 11 2

allowing a further 4 per cent. Dividend, or in all 10 per cent., to the Preference Shares.

It is proposed to pay dividends half-yearly, on September 30th and March 31st.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

An agreement dated the 29th day of April, 1912, has been entered into by the Company with SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LIMITED, whereby an option is granted to ODHAMS, LIMITED, with a view to the amalgamation of the two Companies. By the terms of the proposed agreement ODHAMS, LIMITED (if they exercise their option) are to purchase the goodwill, undertaking, and assets of SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LIMITED, as on the 31st December last. The consideration for the purchase is to be the payment of all the debts and liabilities of SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LIMITED, including the Debenture debt, and the payment of £3,500 in cash or Cumulative Participating Preference Shares at the discretion of ODHAMS, LIMITED. The consideration may be paid wholly or in part out of the proceeds of the present issue. The joint assets of the two Companies were on the 31st December last as follows :—

Machinery, Plant, Tools, Fixtures, &c., as per Messrs. Dryden & Foord's Valuation, December, 1910	£63,882 5 0		
Add Machinery since added	13,303 19 8		
	£77,186 4 8		
Less Depreciation to 31st December, 1911	3,773 3 2	£73,413	1 6
Expenditure on Leasehold Premises, *less* written off		13,216	4 3
Endowment Policy, amount paid to December 31st		4,074	0 0
Stock-in-Trade and Work in progress		3,582	7 6
Trade and other Debtors ..	£69,766 16 3		
Less Reserve ..	17,357 6 9	52,409	9 6
Investments in Sundry Publications (estimated)		1,000	0 0
Cash		972	5 0
Goodwill (estimated on three years' profits) ..		30,000	0 0
		£178,666	5 9
Less Liabilities in respect of Debenture, Trade and other Creditors		127,703	15 9
		£50,962	10 0

To which must be added the proceeds of the present issue.

The above figures, except Goodwill and Investments, are compiled from the certified balance sheets.

The business of the Company has developed from that of a comparatively small undertaking into one of the largest and most important printing and publishing businesses of its kind in the country.

The Ordinary Shares are held almost exclusively by the Directors and their friends.

Every Shareholder is entitled to one vote per Share, whether Ordinary or Preference.

There are no Management or Founders' Shares.

Contracts have been entered into by the Company with Mr. W. J. B. ODHAMS and with Mr. J. S. ELIAS, who have been with the Company since its formation, for the continuance of their services to the Company for a further period of ten years from 1st January last. By the terms of their Contracts, which are both dated 22nd January, 1912, Mr. W. J. B. ODHAMS is retained as Managing Director and Mr. ELIAS is retained as Manager of the Company, each of them being entitled to £850 a year for salary and expenses and 5 per cent. of the net profits as remuneration in each case in addition to his Director's fees. There are also Contracts, both dated 17th January, 1912, between SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LTD., and Mr. ODHAMS and Mr. ELIAS respectively, under which Mr. ODHAMS is retained as Managing Director of that Company at a salary of £150 per annum and 5 per cent. of the net profits, and Mr. ELIAS is retained as Manager at a remuneration for salary and expenses of £400 per annum and 5 per cent. of the net profits, in each case in addition to his Director's fees.

£19,300 of the £35,000 Debentures of the Company have been issued for the full amount thereof, and the balance, namely, £15,700, have been issued and are held by the Bankers of the Company to secure loans. In respect of the issue of £700, part of the said £19,300 Debentures, Commission at the rate of 5 per cent was paid; the remainder of the said sum was issued without any Commission being paid for its subscription or for procuring the subscription.

The valuation of Messrs. DRYDEN & FOORD, LTD., the Reports of Messrs. FRANKLIN, WILD & Co. and Mr. PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, and the agreements with Mr. W. J. B. ODHAMS and Mr. J. S. ELIAS as to Management, and the option agreement between SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LTD., and ODHAMS LIMITED, for the sale and purchase of the business and assets of SOUTHWOOD, SMITH & Co., LTD., and the underwriting Contract, and also the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, can be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company at any time during business hours.

A Contract for underwriting 30,000 of the present issue of Shares has been entered into with The Midland Industrial and General Trust, Limited. In accordance with the said Contract Commissions amounting in all to 8 per cent. will be payable on 30,000 Shares.

A Brokerage of 3d. per Share will be paid in respect of Allotments made on Applications bearing the stamps of approved Agents other than Underwriters or Sub-Underwriters.

Applications for Shares should be made upon the Forms accompanying the Prospectus and sent to the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance of the amount of the deposit.

Where no Allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for the balance will be applied towards the remaining payments.

The minimum subscription on which the Directors may proceed to Allotment is fixed by the Articles at 5 per cent. of the Shares offered for subscription.

It is proposed to make application to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange in due course for a settlement for the Shares.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained at the offices of the Company, or from the Solicitors, Bankers, or Auditors.

Dated the 4th day of May, 1912.

THIS FORM TO BE FILLED UP AND SENT ENTIRE WITH REMITTANCE TO THE COMPANY'S BANKERS: THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, 35, KING STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON, W.C. HEAD OFFICE: 39, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C., OR ANY OF ITS BRANCHES.

No.....

ODHAMS, LIMITED.

CAPITAL - - - £100,000.

Divided into 45,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each and 55,000 6 per cent. Cumulative Participating Preference Shares of £1 each.

APPLICATION FOR CUMULATIVE PARTICIPATING PREFERENCE SHARES.

To the Directors of ODHAMS, LIMITED.

Gentlemen—Having paid to the Company's Bankers the sum of £ ..... being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on..... to the Company's Bankers the sum of £ ..... being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share on..... Cumulative Participating Preference Shares in the above-named Company, I request you to allot me that number of Shares upon the terms of the Company's Prospectus dated the 4th day of May, 1912, and I hereby agree to accept the same or any smaller number that may be allotted to me and to pay the further instalments as provided by the said Prospectus, and I authorise you to register me as the holder of the said Shares.

ORDINARY SIGNATURE .....

NOTE. PLEASE WRITE VERY DISTINCTLY.

NAME (IN FULL).....

ADDRESS (IN FULL).....

PROFESSION OR BUSINESS.....DATED.....1912

THINGS THAT MATTER.

ARE THE MIDDLE CLASSES FOOLS?

By Norman Tiptaft.

[*A Plea for Co-operation between the Middle and the Working Classes.*]

When the population of England was sixteen millions Carlyle averred that they were "mostly fools." There is no sign that the ratio of fools is any less to-day.

There are, however, three sorts—fools, d—— fools, and the middle classes. The last of these is the greatest.

* * * * *

No, my dear man in the street, I didn't for one moment expect you to agree with me. You will point out that the middle classes contain the most intelligent, stable, conscientious, hard-working, clever portion of the community. That if it were not for the middle classes we should lose our legislators, our captains of industry, our clergy, our—well, everything that's worth having. Quite so: I'm in complete agreement with you. I know that the majority of the most highly-placed men to-day in England have sprung from the middle classes. I know that the middle classes possess more brains—of a sort—than all the workers and upper classes put together; that they produce the most brilliant individuals we have. And yet, with all their capacity, can you think of any other body that has such small influence, that works as hard, that pays as much, that is so persistently snubbed by their betters and threatened by their subordinates?

They are perpetually between the devil and the deep sea. The upper classes have wealth, social position, influence. The workers have trade unions, strikes and the vote. The middle classes have—what? The income tax, the rates, and the hump.

The Helplessness of the Middle Classes.

Poverty is a bad thing, a cruel thing—and, be it said, an entirely unnecessary thing. The poverty of the very poor is hellish to the last degree, and yet for them there exist soup-kitchens, workhouses, charity organisation societies, guilds of help, and a hundred-and-one other relieving agencies. The poverty of the upper ten is uncomfortable, but for them there are government posts, Court sinecures, diplomatic appointments.

The poverty of the middle classes is unrelieved by a single helpful factor. Instead of being able to appeal to the relieving officer, they pay the bulk of the poor-rate. Instead of getting Government posts, they pay to maintain them.

When it comes to the election of representatives, either for Parliament or the local councils, they are outnumbered by the votes of the workers and out-influenced by the money of the capitalists.

In the ordinary process of obtaining the equivalent to daily bread, the upper classes, by virtue of their possessions and the method of our social system, get fat on rent and interest. The poor, by dint of trade unions, Labour members, Syndicalism, and the more disreputable ones by theft, casual wards, prisons and other institutions, get a living from society at the other end of the scale. Those who work and have some skill at their trade have enforced for themselves a week's labour ranging from 48 to 55 hours. What of the middle classes? Take the case of the small shopkeeper. He works from first thing in the morning till the last thing at night; he does his books on Sundays; he spends half his life in fear of the bankruptcy court, and often goes there after all. Holidays, he has none; leisure, impossible; culture, no time for it.

Look at the average clerk—he is a member of the middle classes—he would scorn to be called a workman. He wears a high collar, a fashionable suit. He is cursed at by his employer; he has the fear of dismissal hanging over him all the time; he knows there are always thousands willing to take his place; he never strikes—he daren't. He lives a narrow, miserable existence, made narrower and even more miserable by the fact that he must "keep up a position" on something less than £2 10s. a week. He gets no pay for overtime.

What a life!

Go the whole round of the middle classes and see what you find. (I am not referring to the few exceptions.) Take them as a whole, they have more responsibility, worry, mental strain, than any other part of the community. They grumble more, too, than any other section, and (quite deservedly) get less than any other in the way of legislative favours, charity or backstairs influence.

Their Mistake.

Now I may—belonging to the middle classes myself—have somewhat overdrawn the picture, but I don't think I have. My point is that, having the capacity they undoubtedly have, the middle classes must be fools of the most extreme order to go on standing their present unenviable position. *They are fools*, and their folly consists in a persistent endeavour to ape the manners and conform to the standards of the rich, while despising as beneath their notice the help and support that the workers could and would give them.

What the middle classes either cannot or will not see is that, being themselves *workers* (mainly brain workers, of course) they have *everything in common* with *those who work* in other spheres of life—the manual and mechanical—but *nothing in common with those who do not work at all.* The result of their blindness is that they strive with all the force they are capable of to perpetuate the system that crushes them, instead of joining with the other workers to smash the system and substitute a better one.

The cry of the average middle-class citizen is, "For heaven's sake keep the rates low and the workers in their proper places!" It is always the workers who are threatening him (he thinks) with ruin and devastation—never the upper classes. Something is wrong—he knows that much—but *what it is* he has not the faintest idea. Believe me, middle-class people, it is not the striker who is your enemy, *but the man who pays him so badly that in desperation he strikes. He works, you work,* but there is a class—the richest of all—which does not and yet revels in luxury. *All wealth* comes from labour—labour of hand and brain—*your labour and the labour of the manual worker*—and a small band of idlers take heavy toll from you both.

* * * * *

Suppose you open a new shop and by dint of hard work build up a big business. What happens? Your landlord raises your rent and the Council consequently raises your assessment for rates. You, *because you have worked hard, have to pay more* than you would have done if you had been lazy. Suppose a workman who has taken ten hours to do a job invents a machine that will do it in five. What happens? His employer sacks half his men and *because there are more unemployed in that trade than before the worker gets less.* Years ago bands of operatives went round the country smashing machinery—it took away their living.

Surely there must be something wrong with a system that penalises brains and hard work, that discovers a labour-saving device and uses it to create unemployment, that invents an improved method and makes the users of the method worse off than they were before.

If productive capacity has increased so enormously, how is it that 12 millions of the working classes in this country are living below the hunger line? How is it that the bulk of the middle classes are perpetually harassed and worried?

The Remedy.

It shouldn't be so. *It need not be so,* but to alter it the *middle classes will have to join hands with the workers.*

There you have the thing in a nutshell. You don't want society divided into three camps—rich, middle classes and workers. You only want two—*all the workers in one, all the idlers in the other.* Then, having made that division, it is the business of the workers to see that *they have what they produce—which is everything*—and *that the idlers have what they produce*—which is nothing.

If the middle classes insist on fighting the workers, the workers will ultimately plunge into extreme Socialism, *minus the organising capacity necessary to make it successful,* which simply means anarchy and chaos. If the middle classes join the workers, they will supply that organising capacity which, added to the efforts of those who perform the manual labour, will result in the ideal commonwealth that has been the theme of poets and seers for untold ages. We *have* the organising capacity in the middle classes. We *have* the labouring capacity in the workers.

Why not unite the two?

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—See page 610.

AIDS TO BUSINESS SUCCESS.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY THAT MAKES DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A STRUGGLING SHOP-KEEPER (OR ASSISTANT) AND A WHITELEY OR LIPTON.

REMARKABLE FREE BOOK EVERY SHOP-OWNER AND ASSISTANT SHOULD OBTAIN AND READ.

There are Shop-owners and Assistants who have in them the making of a Lipton or Whiteley. All they need is the spark of inspiration and the fire of encouragement.

Both are supplied in a remarkable book, entitled "Silent Salesmanship." Further, our readers may just now obtain copies of this book gratis. All that is necessary is to mention JOHN BULL.

We have read this book and would like to say that the shop-owner or assistant who does not find inspiration and encouragement therein is a dullard indeed.

THE GERM OF SUCCESS WITHIN EVERY MASTER AND ASSISTANT.

It is not surprising to learn that numbers of shop-proprietors and assistants who have read this book are already winning ahead in a way which serves to illustrate that every retailer and assistant has within himself the germ of greater success in business.

No greater aid to business success than this book guide has ever before been available to those engaged in the arduous and too often unprofitable retail trades.

The surprising thing is that the difference in the mental calibre of a small-keeper or salesman and the merchant princes who have built up enormous concerns like Lipton's, Harrod's, Whiteley's, etc., in no way corresponds to the actual great difference in their turnover and profits.

Start a retailer—be he owner or assistant—on the way to success, and scarcely anything but a health-breakdown or death can stop him achieving still greater success.

Mental attitude is an important factor, as pointed out in this remarkable presentation book. "There are myriads of salesmen in your brain," points out this literary guide, philosopher and friend, "and the shop-owner or assistant who gets ahead fastest is he who employs the greatest number of these otherwise sleeping salesmen."

ARE "YOU" AMBITIOUS?

How to do so is explained in the free 52-page book on "Silent Salesmanship," also even more fully (with examples and illustrations) in a course of instruction that may be obtained by every reader of the book.

The retailer or assistant who is ambitious for bigger and better things will want to read this book and carry out its good advice.

Are you ambitious and enterprising, or unambitious and unenterprising? Your sending for a free copy of this book will indicate which you are.

Every phase of sales-making and profit-earning is dealt with in the free book, and at much greater length in the course of 12 lessons of instruction.

How to attract attention to the window and bring customers into the shop are two solutions the reading of which cannot fail to profit every reader.

Present students of the course in "Silent Salesmanship" are already making greater success in business than ever before. They ascribe it to the wonderful business-aiding possibilities of "Silent Salesmanship."

Fortunately the cost of the course of instruction in the art of "Silent Salesmanship" is well within the reach of every shop-owner and even most shop-assistants, and many of the latter are learning that which will enable them to establish businesses of their own—and businesses in connection with which they will be able to compete with the so-called octopus or chain-shop, or big stores.

WRITE FOR YOUR COPY TO-DAY.

Indeed, the book, "Silent Salesmanship," is one that every shop-proprietor and assistant can read for his own greater profit. Until the present "Complimentary Edition" is exhausted copies will be sent in sealed plain wrapper gratis to every JOHN BULL reader who applies for one, stating whether shop-owner or assistant and in what business engaged, and enclosing 1d. stamp for postage.

Address: The Publisher, "Silent Salesmanship," 36 Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.

FOR ONLY 2/6 WITH ORDER.

The Graves Complete Sheffield Cutlery Service.

No matter how generously your table is provided with good things, a seedy looking, badly worn set of Knives and Forks is a sad let down, whereas a well matched Service of Genuine Sheffield Cutlery in good condition, enormously increases the effect of the table arrangement, and adds a suggestion of refinement and distinction which everyone notices with pleasure.

The Knives in the GRAVES CUTLERY SERVICE are of Genuine SHEFFIELD STEEL of fine temper and splendid finish. The handles are of beautifully grained IVORETTE, all perfectly matched, in faithful reproduction of the Finest AFRICAN IVORY.

The Spoons and Forks are manufactured from COLUMBIAN SILVER, which is a hard white metal produced only for our Factory, and bearing a superfine polish indistinguishable from Sterling Silver. It retains its lovely white Virgin lustre under all conditions of wear, and is AN ORNAMENT TO ANY TABLE IN THE LAND. The Graves Cutlery Service is supplied in every case subject to fullest approval. When unpacked and examined, if you are not in every respect satisfied, return carriage forward, & we refund the whole of the money.

51 pieces for 26/-

6	TABLE KNIVES
6	TABLE SPOONS
6	TABLE FORKS
6	DESSERT KNIVES
6	DESSERT FORKS
1	BUTTER KNIFE
1	PICKLE FORK
6	DESSERT SPOONS
6	TEA SPOONS
1	BOXT SUGAR SPN
2	SALT SPOONS
1	MUSTARD SPOON
1	PR. SUGAR TONGS
6	EGG SPOONS

Seven Days Approval.

Every one of the 51 pieces comprised in the Graves Cutlery and Plate Service is made in our own works in Sheffield, and is supplied direct from the Factory to the Home. This wonderful Cutlery Bargain is a triumph of enterprise and value, the result of many years of steady development in manufacturing methods, and is made possible only by keeping the whole of an immense factory employed year in and year out in the manufacture of this single speciality.

WE DELIVER the GRAVES COMPLETE SHEFFIELD CUTLERY SERVICE direct from the factory, Carriage Paid to approved orders, for 2/6 now and 9 monthly payments of 2/6, if considered quite satisfactory after examination. The World's Greatest Cutlery Offer.

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE.—On receipt of Post Card we send our HANDSOME ILLUSTRATED MANUFACTURERS' CATALOGUE of Genuine Sheffield Cutlery and Electro Plate POST FREE to your address. It shows a variety of handsome designs in Cruets, Jam Dishes, Butter Coolers, Tea Services, Biscuit Jars, Flower Stands, and a multitude of elegant specialities suitable for presents at economical prices and for convenient Easy Terms or Cash Discount. ASK FOR CATALOGUE

J. G. GRAVES LTD SHEFFIELD.

Zam-Buk

Of all Chemists.

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

[Being Conversations in a West-End Barber's Shop, Overheard by our Reporter.]

THE RIGHT HON. DAVID LLOYD GEORGE.

This chair, if you please, sir. . . . 'Air cuttin' ? . . . Jest trimmed round the neck an' be'ind the ears ? . . . Very good, sir. . . . Jest put your arms through the sleeves, if you please, sir. . . . Yessir. . . . Would you like to see this arfternoon's *Pall Mall ?* Gen'lman over there'll be done with it in a minit. Very strong leadin' harticle on Lloyd George an' Welsh Disserstablishment in it to-day, sir. That chap Garvin do go it, an' no mistake ! . . . 'E lets Lloyd George 'ave it 'ot, an' no errer. . . . . 'E deserves it. . . . There ain't no language strong enough w'en you starts torkin' about *'im*. . . . No, sir, I can't say as I knows anythink pertickler about Welsh Disserstablishment. I don't orfen 'ave the chance to go to church, and I ain't a Welshman, thank Heaven ! . . . Sorry, sir ! . . . No, sir ; it wasn't my fault. . . . I couldn't be expected to know you was agoin' to give a jerk like that. . . . Very sorry, sir, I'm sure. . . . It won't show, sir, that's one comfort.

Speakin' of Lloyd George, sir, there's a lore against Kings of England bein' Roman Catholics, ain't there ? . . . Indeed, sir ? . . . Yessir. . . . Well, sir, I think there ought to be another lore against Charnceller of the Exchequers bein' Welshmen. Look wot a reputashun they've got, sir. . . . Look at the ole nursery rhyme about Taffy. . . . There must be somethink in it, sir. . . . there ain't no smoke without fire. . . . Then, again, look wot they calls

a bookmaker 'oo does a guy on the course—Welsher ! . . . I likes a nice Welsh rabbit, an' I don't mind a day at the Welsh 'Arp ; but I orfen thank Heaven I wasn't born a Welshman. . . Don't you, sir ?

Will that be short enough at the neck, sir ? . . . Thank you, sir.

I see 'e's got six millions surplus this yer. . . . 'E don't know wot to do with it, so 'e ain't doin' nothink with it, but keepin' it up 'is sleeve. . . . That's a nice thing, ain't it, sir ? Six millions of the people's 'ard-earned money, w'ile the income tax, wot is prop'ly on'y a war tax, stands at ninepence in the pound !

Machine or 'and brush, sir ? . . . Thank you, sir. . . . Rotten, I calls it. . . . 'Sides, I'm told if a Charnceller of the Exchequer gets more money than 'e expected at the end of the finanshul yer, it means 'e don't know 'is trade. It orter be t'other way about, reely. Then, if 'e wants more money to keep the country goin', 'e's gotter arsk for it an' say wot 'e wants it for. . . . Instead o' that, 'ere's Lloyd George with six millions up 'is sleeve to do wot 'e likes with. . . . It ain't right. . . . 'Oo knows wot 'e's up to ? . . . Some election dodge, I reckon.

A little pomade, sir ? . . . Yessir ; yore 'air *does* 'ang 'eavy. . . . It don't want much grease . . . a dry shampoo 'ud do it good, sir. . . . No, sir ? . . . Very good, sir.

No, sir ; 'e don't patronize this establishment. . . I wish 'e did, sir ; *I'd* give 'im a bit o' my mind if ever I 'ad 'im in my chair—not 'arf. . . . From wot I've seen of 'is picshurs in the papers 'e 'as 'is 'air cut Welsh fashion—a puddin' basin over 'is 'ead, and a rough snip round the rim. . . . Quite right, sir ; I *don't* like 'im, and I don't mind sayin' so. . . . This yore 'at, sir ? . . . Thank you, sir ; much obliged. Gooday, sir.—Next gentleman, *please.*

Simple Home Remedy for Wrinkled Faces.

(From Popular Toilettes.)

Thousands of women are spending fortunes in their frantic efforts to remove the signs of premature age from their faces. When in this state of mind a woman will spend almost any amount of money on worthless wrinkle removers, of which there are many.

If these women only knew it, the most effective remedy imaginable is a simple, harmless astringent jelly which can be had from any chemist. They have only to buy about a shillings-worth of jelly of parsidium. Apply this daily as if it were cold cream. The effect is almost magical. Even after the first treatment a marked improvement is noticed, and the face has a snug, firm feeling that is most pleasing.

I RESTORE GREY HAIR

Faded Hair Scientifically Restored to the Natural Shade of Youth.

In days of old ladies ruined their hair by extravagant head-dresses like this worn by Elizabeth of Bavaria on her marriage with Charles VI.

In modern times hair pads, hair dyes and alleged hair restorers, mental stress and worry are rapidly turning the hair of women and men prematurely grey.

It is my business as a Hair Specialist to Restore the Hair of men and women naturally, harmlessly and permanently, and, without using dyes or dangerous chemicals, to restore grey hair to its natural colour.

At no period in my experience have I noted so much premature greyness and baldness as exists to-day, and I have found that a great cause of this degeneracy is the use of hair dyes, shampoo powders, and fancy-named preparations called

hair restorers, which contain ammonia, lead, etc., and rot the hair as well as injure one's health.

The use of a hair dye by anyone of either sex always gives the user an unnatural appearance ; it deceives no one, and only makes its victim an object of pity or derision.

The difference between Professor Paul Lind's Liquid for the Hair and every other preparation is that mine is a harmless scientific discovery which has never yet failed to restore grey hair permanently to its natural colour of youth by beneficially acting upon the hair roots and the colour cells of the hair, and that it does this even up to seventy years of age.

There is no other preparation in the world which will do this, and at the same time produce a healthy growth of fine, brilliant, luxuriant hair, the change in colour always seeming solely due to improved health, and causing men and women to look fifteen to twenty years younger.

I have thousands of letters from grateful clients from all parts of the world which you are invited to see at my consulting rooms.

They positively prove that I effectually cure greyness from whatever cause arising, that the restoration to its original, natural colour is permanent, and not only perfectly harmless, but beneficial to health.

FULL TRIAL BOTTLE FREE.

I do not ask you to take any risks or undergo any expensive treatment. I know exactly what my Liquid for the Hair will do, and I guarantee it will do it. So sure am I of its goodness that I will forward you a Free bottle and a valuable book gratis if you will send two penny stamps for postage to my Consulting Room, Prof. Paul Lind, 107, Dorset House, 489a, Oxford Street, London, W.

MRS. BULL.

An Ideal Paper for Women.

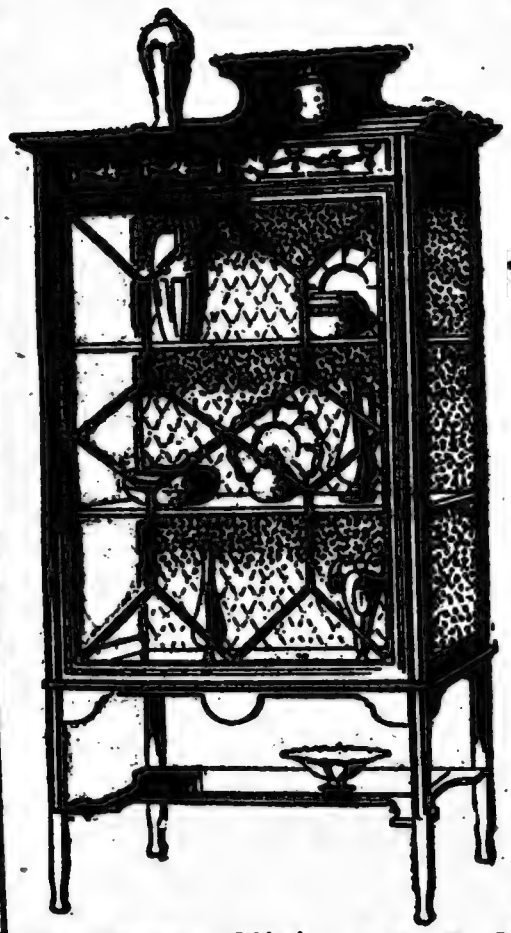
EVERY TUESDAY. ONE PENNY.

CREDIT FURNISHING

Do not think for an instant that a credit trade is all cheap trade. We sell to some of the wealthiest people in England; some of them pay cash and some buy on credit. They have found out that the goods we sell are thoroughly reliable and that our credit prices are no higher than at any Cash Store.

Credit makes the buying easy, for it breaks up the payments into convenient amounts arranged to suit your income. All our prices are marked in plain figures and no interest or extra charges are added whatsoever.

Our latest 1912 Catalogue containing over 600 illustrations will be forwarded post free on application. This shows at a glance how artistically any room can be furnished for the least possible outlay.



Inlaid Mahogany Cab'net, constructed on Sheraton lines. The inside is lined with damask to selection. **£4-4-0**

A SPECIAL DISCOUNT OF TEN PER CENT. IS ALLOWED FOR PROMPT CASH.

TERMS.

Worth. £	Per Month. £ s. d.
10	6 0
20	11 0
50	1 8 0
100	2 5 0
200	4 10 0
500	11 5 0
1,000	22 10 0
2,000	45 0 0

Or by other proportionate payments to suit purchaser's convenience.

COUNTRY ORDERS ARE PACKED AND DELIVERED FREE.

Beautiful design chair, with loose cushion, well upholstered and covered art tapestry **£3-17-6**

In order that Country Customers may make a personal selection, we will pay their fares to town on all orders of £30 and upwards.

MIDLAND
FURNISHING · CO · LTD

15 TO 23 · SOUTHAMPTON · ROW · HOLBORN · LONDON · W·C

UNWITNESSED WILLS.

[This is a companion feature to our "Anticipated Epitaphs"—and is just as authentic.]

This is the Last Will and Testament
— of me —

CHRISTABEL PANKHURST, of —— (wouldn't you like to know, eh?), spinster (and proud of it, see?).

I HEREBY REVOKE all former testamentary dispositions made by me. (I have never before made any, but I have to put this so as to conform to the stupid old man-made law.)

I GIVE, BEQUEATH, AND DEVISE (did you ever see such ridiculous phraseology?) unto the enslaved and downtrodden women of England who, with a few noble exceptions, haven't got the pluck to rebel against the tyranny of despotic husbands (the terrible Turks!), selfish brothers, and other male things who at present rule the roost, my pitying contempt for their miserable servility, and I adjure them to break the clanking chains that fetter them, and assume once more the spirit of Mother Eve, who was, at any rate, boss of the Garden of Eden whilst their tenancy lasted, and kept old Adam in his place until she got him the sack.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the man Hobhouse, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (heavens! what a Chancellor!), my window hammer, with the advice that he do retire from politics and take to breaking coke—an occupation better suited to his mental capacity.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the Chief Detective Inspector at Scotland Yard a copy of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, bound in calf, and advise him to make a careful study of the deductive methods of that great investigator, so that he may be better able to trace and effect the arrest of fugitives from justice (so called).

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto Reginald McKenna the Home Secretary (goodness gracious! *what* a Home Secretary!), a Forcible-Feeding Tube as used in Holloway Gaol, so that his wife may have means at hand to keep his strength up when Reggie is off his feed.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto Sir Almroth Wright (beast!) my sympathy for the fact that his female patients appear to be mostly lunatics, whose mental condition, I am told, is contagious, which would account for his recent ebullition of pseudo-scientific balderdash in the columns of *The Times*.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the Prime Minister my congratulations that Party political exigencies have not yet compelled him to "toe the line" in respect of Women's Suffrage, as they have in connection with Home Rule for Ireland.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the Chief Commissioner of Police the disguise I wore during the time a warrant was out for my arrest, and which enabled me to walk with perfect freedom through the streets of London and ask policemen the time with impunity.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto Dr. Francke, who recently declared that 88 per cent. of women are knock-kneed, a plaster cast of my er—lower limbs, so that he may see for himself that whatever tight and heavy skirts may do for the mass of unfranchised women, the leader of the Suffrage movement has a straight leg—which is another strong argument for Votes for Women.

I GIVE, BEQUEATH, AND DEVISE all my remaining property and possessions, both personal and real, unto the Women's Freedom League, to be devoted to the furtherance of our glorious cause!

SURVEYOR AND ESTATE AGENT (qualified) offers assistance to owners or occupiers of property. Expert negotiator. Knowledge of law of landlord and tenant. Valuations made. Property managed (with guarantee). List of investments on application. Mortgages arranged. Insurances effected, etc. Highest references. (London). Address: "Estate Agent," 4, Great New Street, E.C.

MONEY.—£5 to £5,000 AT SHORT NOTICE.
EASY REPAYMENTS. STRICTEST PRIVACY.
THE WEST LONDON ADVANCE CO., LTD.,
428, Pentonville Road, King's Cross, N. (side entrance).

"MRS. BULL"
Every Tuesday. One Penny

At the third annual general meeting of Mappin and Webb (1908), Limited, held last week, the Chairman, Mr. W. J. Mappin, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said that the various branches of the Company's business at home and abroad had continued to show most satisfactory results, and recognising the opportunities afforded by Brazil, a branch had been opened in Rio de Janeiro, one of the principal cities of that country, and another was projected for San Paulo. The balance sheet showed that the profits for the year had increased to £75,657, and the Directors were pleased to find, therefore, that the increase in the capital of the Company had benefited the business, as it had been anticipated it would do, and that the extensions had proved so satisfactory and remunerative. The financial position of the Company, as disclosed by the balance sheet, was a very strong one. Mr. H. Portlock, in seconding the adoption of the report, described the position and progress of the Company's business in Argentina and Brazil, and pointed out that although the Company had only been three years in existence, they had established five or six additional businesses on a satisfactory basis, and the amount carried forward and put to reserve after the appropriation set out in the balance sheet came to no less a sum than £37,000.

BUCHANAN'S WHISKY
"BLACK
—&—
WHITE"
The Highest Standard of
QUALITY.

NOW READY. MAY ISSUE OF
Financial Review of Reviews
SPECIAL ARTICLES:
Safe and Profitable Investment. By H. LOWENFELD. Author of "All About Investment," etc.
The Waste and Extravagance of Government Departments. By ARNOLD WRIGHT.
Insurance Companies and the Geographical Distribution of Capital. By G. E. MAY, F.I.A.
The Perils of Ordinary Shares. By the Investment Critic.
Sir William Ramsay and the Collieries.
SPECIAL OFFER—*Twelve months' subscription to the Review, post free, 10s., including the Investors' Four-Shilling Year Book.*
PUBLISHER, 2, WATERLOO PLACE, S.W.

CALVERT'S
CARBOLISED
Shaving Soap
proves how much the lather can contribute to the comfort of a shave, as the razor goes cleanly and smoothly over the face, meeting no excessive resistance, even from a strong growth of beard, and, therefore, neither scraping nor tearing the skin.
Tenpence a stick from your Chemist. Sample post free for threepence from F. C. Calvert & Co. (Dept. 2), Manchester.

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

[In this column we give from week to week an anticipatory —always good-humoured—Epitaph of some celebrity of the day. We need scarcely say we hope it will be many years before his relatives will have to consider seriously our suggestion.]

O pafsynge stranger,
Dropp a teare
For
Ye Rygbt Honourable Joseph Albert Pease, P.C.,
Whoo lyes amonge ye wormes
Belowe.
Born
Anno Domini 1860,
As soone as hee was olde enow
Hee was sente to Tottenham Schoole;
Whence,
Havynge been frequentlie and soundlie birched
Toe encourage in hym a love of learnynge,
Hee wente uppe to Cambridge.
Atte ye Univerfitie
Hee hadde a moft diftinguifhed careere,
Becomynge a Member of ye Football Team;
Ye Polo Team,
And
Master of ye Univerfitie Drag Hounds.
And when hee sette uppe a pack of Beagles
Of hys owne,
And ackted as Mafter thereof,
Hys future succefs
As a partie politiçian
Was seene toe be afsured.
Therefore
Itt was noe surpryze toe hys friends
When,
Anno Domini 1892;
Hee was eleckted Member of Parlymente
For
Ye Tyne-syde Division of Northumberlande
In ye Liberal intereft,
And John Morley,
Thenne Irysh Seckretarie,
Rememberynge hys prowefs in followynge ye scente
Of ye red herrynge,
Made hym hys Private Seckretarie
(Unpaid).
Fyve yeares later
Hys reputaçion in ye huntynge fielde
Wonne hym ye posiçion of Junior Whip.
Full of ye huntfman's craft,
Hee gave hys Partie hacks
A livelye tyme,
And proved hymfelfe soe effiçient in
Keepynge them bunched together,
Touchynge uppe ye stragglers,
And keepynge them on ye scente,
Thatte,
Anno Domini 1908,
Hee was made
Patronage Seckretarie toe ye Treafurie.
Anticipatynge even hygher office,
Hee tooke a shorte reft as
Chancellor of the Duchie of Lancafter;
And thenne afsumed ye refponfibilities
Of
PRESIDENT OF YE BOARD OF EDUCATION.
Alas!
From thys tyme dates hys downfall.
For.
Although hee hadde captained
Ye Durham County Cricket Club
For six yeares;
Although hee was a member of ye M.C.C.;
Although hee belonged to ye New Zealand,
Princes, Mitcham, Sandwich, Seaton,
And Darlington Golf Clubs,
And was an expert cyclyft, fifhermanne, and shott;
Hee founde ye problems of educaçion
Too stiffe for hym,
And, broken-hearted, dyed.

"NEURASTHENIA"—
WHAT IS IT?
ITS PREVALENCE UNRECOGNISED.

WHAT DOCTORS SAY.

Almost everyone, at one time or another, suffers from that deplorable condition of the nervous system, known as "Neurasthenia."

The wide-spread prevalence of this serious complaint is due to modern conditions of life, its immediate causes being:—Hereditary influence, Worry, Overwork, Emotional shock, Grief, Continued pain, Strain of business, Disturbances of Indigestion.

An attack of Neurasthenia is generally preceded by a period of Depression. There is a tendency to worry over everything. All duties are a painful effort. Uncontrolled thoughts. Loss of memory. Sleeplessness. Imaginary fears. Restlessness. Irritability. A feeling of pressure in the head is common. Flushes of the face and cold hands and feet.

By toning and calming the nervous system, by improving the digestion and assimilation of food, by enriching the blood, by invigorating the whole body, Hall's Wine restores perfect health to the "run-down" and "Neurasthenic" sufferer.

In view of the above, the following statements by doctors—sworn to as genuine by the interviewer, before a Commissioner for Oaths—are significant. In deference to medical etiquette the doctors' names are not published here.

NEURASTHENIC CONDITIONS

"I use Hall's Wine pretty generally in neurasthenic conditions. It is especially valuable where pain is a marked feature, and produces sleep. I consider it entirely safe and therefore prefer it to any of the usual narcotics."
(Interview W. 338—20th July, 1911.)

DEBILITY

"I have used Hall's Wine for several years now as a tonic in convalescence, and also in arresting development of conditions tending to debility. It is a most excellent preparation."
(Interview W. 418—27th Sept., 1911.)

IN NERVOUS DEPRESSION

"I consider Hall's Wine to be a most excellent preparation, and I always advise it in convalescence. It never fails to accelerate the recuperative process, and in nervous depression it conduces to a healthy tone of the system without producing any of the ill after-effects so common with many preparations used in such cases."
(Interview W. 322—6th July, 1911.)

MOST SATISFACTORY NEURO-TONIC

"I have used Hall's Wine for over 20 years and have never been able to trace any ill effects from it. I use it pretty generally for debilitated and neurasthenic conditions. It is the most satisfactory neuro-tonic I know."
(Interview W. 344—21st July, 1911.)

RUN-DOWN

"I know nothing which so quickly arouses vitality in run-down conditions as Hall's Wine and there is seldom any after-depression, because the patient is enabled to take ordinary food and thus keep up to concert pitch. One bottle of Hall's Wine (dosage two or three wine-glasses a day) has saved many a patient of mine from a serious breakdown."
(Interview W. 352—28th July, 1911.)

THREE SERIOUS CASES

"I use Hall's Wine in convalescence, predebility and incipient neurasthenia; in the two latter conditions it invariably arrests development."
(Interview W. 343—20th July, 1911.)

NEURASTHENIA. CONVALESCENCE. OPERATIONS

"I always advise Hall's Wine in suitable cases, such as neurasthenia, and especially in convalescence from severe illness, and recovery from surgical operations."
(Interview W. 375—30th Aug., 1911.)

ALLOWS NO OTHER

"I never allow my patients to take any prepared wine excepting Hall's Wine. I find it to be of unvarying good quality, whereas some other preparations, with similar claims, are open to suspicion as to the ingredients used."
(Interview W. 348—27th July, 1911.)

The properties of Hall's Wine are well known to the Medical Profession, and we advise intending purchasers to confirm the statements in this advertisement by consulting their own doctors.

Read the doctors' statements in this advertisement. Then prove them; get a bottle of Hall's Wine from your wine merchant or licensed chemist or licensed grocer. The large size costs 3s. 6d.: smaller size, 2s. X.22.

OUR GREAT COMPETITION.

CAN YOU HIT THE BULL'S EYE?

PRELIMINARY TRIAL.

We have instituted what we believe will be a very popular competition, in which all may join, consisting of

HITTING THE BULL'S EYE,

and we hope as soon as the competition is in working order to be able to award prizes amounting to

£500 PER WEEK,

and later on, as the number of entries increases, to raise the amount to

£1,000 PER WEEK.

In the meantime, we have decided upon an Experimental Co-operative Scheme under which Competitors shall provide a Fund, THE WHOLE OF WHICH—FREE OF ANY DEDUCTION FOR EXPENSES—*will be distributed as follows:—*

1st PRIZE, 25 per cent.;
2nd PRIZE, 15 per cent.;
3rd PRIZE, 10 per cent.;

And Fifty Prizes of 1 per cent. for the best attempts to HIT THE BULL'S EYE.

The competition consists in completing any one of the unfinished Bull's Eyes appearing below. The answers must be crisp and to the point, and the prizes will be awarded to those readers who, in the judgment of the Editor—whose decision is to be absolutely final—hit the Bull's Eye in the clearest and sharpest form. The other Bull's Eyes will guide them as to the style they should adopt, and the finishing of the incomplete ones should afford much amusement and, at the same time, instruction.

All Bull's Eyes must be sent in on the form on this page, and a postal order for 6d. must accompany each coupon. Postal orders must be made payable to JOHN BULL *and crossed "& Co." Competitors sending more than one Coupon may enclose one Postal Order for the full amount to cover the whole of the Coupons, at the rate of 6d. for each Coupon. Write your name and address on the back of the Postal Order, and also put the number of the Postal Order on the Coupon. Coupon will be found on this page. Not more than* TWO *attempts may appear on any* ONE COUPON *and the Sixpence covers the entrance fee of both. Any Bull's Eye may be varied any number of times.*

The Bull's Eyes selected for the Competition are numbered, and it is not necessary to repeat the printed portion of the lines, as long as the numbers are mentioned on the coupons.

We wish it to be understood that the prizes will be awarded strictly on MERIT *and without any regard to the population of towns, or any other ulterior consideration. Competitors, however, should bear in mind that* NOVELTY *is an important consideration in selecting the successful Bull's Eyes.*

BULL'S EYES.

1. The only ratepayer in Boscobel, Shropshire, has been appointed overseer. He will have to . . . .

Isn't there "too much to be said on both sides" at Westminster.

Wouldn't dearer coal be a burning shame?

Is the tailors' strike due to "cut" prices?

2. It is stated that women are the best motor-car drivers. Yet they are . . . .

Eight miles walking exercise per day is required by a man, says a doctor. This is going a step too far.

Sir Ernest Shackleton is surprised at the lack of support for aviation in England. So are we, remembering the large sums wasted on Polar exploration.

3. "Love—and What Then?" is the title of a recent play. The answer is . . . .

"Ugliness is the shadow of selfishness," says Mr. F. R. Benson. And prettiness is often selfishness itself.

"You must learn to walk before you can run," General French tells the Territorials. But we don't want them to run.

"Looking for Trouble," is the title of a new comedy. We hope the author won't find it.

"Seeing they were all gambling, I surrounded them," said a Tottenham policeman. The long arm of the law, undoubtedly.

A number of peers, clad in armour, are to take part in a tournament at Earl's Court. Lord Northcliffe, we understand, will appear in his own Mail.

Accurate won the Great Metropolitan Stakes. It was a bit of "all right" for the backers.

The burglars who stole the tongue of a church bell in France probably reside in the vicinity.

RESULT OF COMPETITION NO. 3.

We are glad to say that the popularity of this Competition is steadily increasing, and we hope soon to be able to announce much larger prizes. Meantime we shall guarantee £50 per week as heretofore.

This week, after careful consideration, we have decided to divide the first three prizes among the undermentioned competitors in respect to the terminations printed in *italics* to the following Bull's Eyes:—

MR. R. A. DANIELL, HALLWELL, LINKINHORNE, CALLINGTON, CORNWALL, for—"All Hail" is the first line in the new Labour Daily paper. But suppose it is *a frost and after a short reign is mist?*

MR. F. J. MUNDAY, IIA, WELBECK STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE, W., for—"Taxi-cab Blown up," reads a heading. Usually it is *the "overcharged" fare that "explodes."*

MR. JOHN MORRIS, 55, FLAXENGATE, LINCOLN, for—"There is no credit here," said the Tottenham magistrate to a prisoner. But in some cases *cash down is refused*, and

MR. J. SMITH, 13, BEECHWOOD DRIVE, TOLCROSS, GLASGOW, for—"There is no credit here," said the Tottenham magistrate to a prisoner. But in some cases *"the charge" is withdrawn.*

The following competitors are awarded prizes of 10s. each:

W. S. Adams, 48, Wroughton Road, Clapham Common, S.W.; Mrs. E. Bruton, 22, Caledonian Place, Clifton, Bristol; H. G. Powell, 11, Broad Street, Wokingham, Berks.; H. Reunert, 37, Richmond Mount, Headingley, Leeds; W. Dickson, 15, St. Paul's Crescent, Camden Square, N.W.; J. H. Oakden, Lyceum Theatre, Goodan, Glasgow, N.B.; J. H. Campbell, 20, Strathyre Street, Shawlands, Glasgow; W. Pearson, Edingley, Southwell, Notts.; H. B. Looker, St. Elms, Cardinal Road, Feltham, Middlesex; S. Tucker, 17, Southfield Road, Cotham, Bristol; C. M. C. Mann (Staff) Town Hall, Camberwell; Miss G. Rogers, 42, Lime Grove, Cheadle, Cheshire; A. E. M. Boughton-Chambers, 17, Regent Road, Wallasey, Cheshire; A. Taylor, "La Plata," Peperharow Road, Godalming, Surrey; C. Koop, 13, Fulham Park Gardens, London, S.W.; Mrs. E. Foster, "Greencroft," Killingworth, Newcastle-on-Tyne; J. Trotter, 5, Wainhouse Road, Halifax, Yorks.; H. W. Hodgson, 40, Oval Mansions, Kennington, S.E.; Mrs. Dees, 83, Folkestone Gardens, Deptford, S.E.; O. J. Worth, "Sec. H.C.C.," The White Horse, St. Albans, Herts.; T. Osman, 3, Hawthorn Road, Bexley Heath; B. M. Gregory, Tappwell, Cardiff, South Wales; M. L. Mason, Goldsmiths' Hall, Carey Lane, E.C.; C. Colls, 11, Morpeth Road, South Hackney; J. Swain, 1, Graham Avenue, West Ealing, W.; J. D. Murray, 17, Hillside Street, Edinburgh; J. Biggs, Woodrow Forest, Melksham, Wilts; A. Ayid, 59, Queen's Road, Finsbury Park, N.; H. Gordon, 34, Harrow Road, Leytonstone, E.; W. Quayle, 72, Welbrow Road, Walton Village, Liverpool; H. Pidduck, 10, Garnett Avenue, Liverpool; W. Parnell, Talbot Model Village, Dorset; Miss L. Toole, 5, Lower Kennington Lane, Newington Butts, London, S.E.; F. Birrell, Brompton Place, Dundee; Miss E. Thomson, 4, Hillsborough Terrace, Hillhead, Glasgow; S. B. Gregory, Taffs Well, Cardiff, South Wales; R. F. Gates, Ecclesbourne, Norman Road, Sutton; G. H. Forwood, 49, St. George's Road, Ramsgate; J. C. Adams, 15, North Street, Portsea, Portsmouth; R. Large, 21, Manor Road, Enfield; T. Gibson, 16, Edward Street, Jarrow-on-Tyne; F. E. Baines, 44, Turnbull Road, Longsight, Manchester; C. P. Patterson, 84, Murchison Road, Leyton, N.E.; P. W. Steele, Balshagray Avenue, Partick, W. Glasgow; A. Chavasse, Stanley, Stoke-on-Trent; G. Phillips, Primrose Club, Park Place, St. James, London; I. Molldowie, Kenwyn, Penworthan Hill, Preston; W. H. Luxton, 170, Pinhoe Road, Exeter, Devon.

BULL'S EYE COUPON.

Postal Order No. JOHN BULL, *May 11, 1912.*

I enter JOHN BULL *Bull's Eye Competition (issue of May 11, 1912) on the terms stated in such issue.*

Name _____

Address _____

_____

I select Bull's Eye No. *and suggest the following finish:—*

Not more than 12 words. _____

I select Bull's Eye No. *and suggest the following finish:—*

Not more than 12 words. _____

Competitors need not select more than one Bull's Eye unless they care to do so. Postal Order for Sixpence must accompany this Coupon and be crossed "& Co." Coupon must be sent not later than WEDNESDAY NEXT, *May 15th, to Bull's Eye Editor,* JOHN BULL, *93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.*

No time like the present.

A shabby appearance is a serious drawback and a heavy handicap in the struggle for success. There is no need whatever to put off ordering a new rig-out; the Graves 35/- Suit is the greatest achievement in popular priced tailoring which the clothing trade has to offer, and our equitable easy payment system enables you to have your suit immediately, and spread the cost over several months. All the essentials of a well planned, comfortable and stylish suit are put into the Graves 35/- Style. The materials are reliable and of handsome appearance; the suit is cleverly cut, carefully tailored, and trimmed and finished in perfect taste. This is a high-grade clothing offer into which it will pay you to look without delay. **There is no time like the present.**

WE DELIVER your Suit from the material of your own choice, stylishly cut, tailored, and carefully made exactly to your own measures

FOR ONLY **5/-** WITH ORDER

and if you are in every respect entirely pleased with the suit when delivered and tried on at home, the balance is payable by six monthly payments of 5/- But if you are in any way disappointed with the work, you are under no obligation whatever to keep the suit, and we will immediately return the whole of the money.

IT COSTS NOTHING to test the sincerity of our offer. Write a Post Card to-day for patterns of the **Graves 35/- Suit**, and you will receive per return the finest display of materials ever submitted at the price. The cloths we shall sample will be cuttings from the lengths now being made up, including TWEEDS, CHEVIOTS, WORSTED SERGES, PLAIN BLACK & BLUE VICUNAS, and a splendid leading line in hard wearing YORKSHIRE SUITINGS. When you come to examine the patterns you will be struck by the fact that although 35/- is admittedly an economical price for a good suit, yet all the patterns we submit are tasteful, superior designs, and such as you notice in the most expensive West End Suits of high-class tailoring.

WHEREVER YOU LIVE you may take advantage of our favourable prices and equitable easy payment terms, and every reader who is alive to his own interests should send a post card immediately for our unrivalled display of suiting samples at 35/- and 42/- post free per return. Everything carriage paid to all approved orders for small deposit with order and easy monthly payments through the post after goods are received & considered quite satisfactory. **Say whether you prefer Light or Dark patterns.** 2/- in the £ Discount Cash with order.

J. B. **GRAVES** LTD

SHEFFIELD.

IF A MAN ASKED YOU

to give him fifteen shillings for ten shillings

would you do it? We think not. Then why pay a shopkeeper 12/6 for a pair of boots not one whit better than (and often inferior to) our renowned all-leather "Footshape" boots which you can obtain for 8/6? Reduce your boot bill by buying direct from the factory, eliminating wholesalers' and retailers' profits, establishment charges, etc., and assuring absolute satisfaction or your money back. And remember "Footshape" boots at 8/6 are not the kind of boots that you buy for 8/6 at the bootshop. Send for a pair of "Footshape" warranted all-leather boots to-day and judge for yourself.

DESCRIPTIONS.

No. 1617.—BOX CALF BOOT, 8/6.—Splendid Box Calf Uppers, straight golosh, no outside seam, unbreakable jockey back, toe-capped (as illustrated), best linen lined, specially selected, hard wearing solid leather sole, sewn. Best make and finish throughout.

No. 1717.—GLACE KID BOOT, 8/6.—Exactly same style and quality as above but slightly lighter in weight.

No. 1617.—BROWN WILLOW CALF, 8/6.—A magnificent boot, rich nut-brown shade and warranted real "Willow" Calf. (Note, Brown costs 1/- extra.)

144-page Catalogue **FREE** on receipt of 2d. (cost of postage only).

Warranted All Leather.

GUIDE FOR ORDERING.

SIZES: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (size 12, 1/- extra). Each size is made in four different widths. No. 3 width (for slender feet); No. 4 (medium); No. 5 (wide); No. 6 (extra wide). Simply state the style number of boot, and size and width required.

If size is not known, send an old boot, or draw outline of stockinged foot on paper (Outline of boot is of no use).

DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY TO YOUR DOOR

COUPON

For "Footshape" Boots on approval.

No.....

Size.....

Width .....

If I am not satisfied you are to return my money in full. "John Bull," May 11, 1912.

(Foreign Postage Extra.)

W. BARRATT & Co., Ltd.,

"Footshape" Boot Manufacturers,

(Desk 66), STERLING WORKS, NORTHAMPTON.

MRS. BULL

Published Every Tuesday. *Price 1d.*

DUNVILLE'S V R WHISKY

"May be obtained from all Wine and Spirit Merchants.

In 3, 6, and 12 Bottle Cases.

Insist on seeing "BOTTLED BY DUNVILLE & CO. LTD." on the Capsule and Back label. NONE OTHER GUARANTEED GENUINE.

Write direct for name of nearest retailer to

DUNVILLE & CO. Ltd., Belfast or London.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of INQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

F. J. (London, E.C.) is anxious to know "if any part of the Middlesex side of the Thames belongs to the county of Kent, and which?" Ah, that's just it; which?

"BILL ADAMS" (London, N.) tries to be sarcastic, and says we estimate ourselves "before the public as a very high and important person." Not so high and important as Bill Adams, however, who, we believe, won the Battle of Waterloo.

E. W. (Brockley) wants to know how to become a cook on an ocean liner or under Government. For the former, apply to the steamship companies. For the latter, drop a line to the Chairman of the House of Commons Kitchen Committee.

"DAN" (Bucks).—You are quite right. The arguments in favour of Business Government cannot be refuted. That's what makes the party hacks so wild!

CALCUTTA TURF CLUB SWEEP.—For the information of correspondents who do not read their JOHN BULL as attentively as they should, tickets are now issued *only to members*. No others need apply.

J. L. (London, S.E.).—We certainly think the 5d. work tickets that are distributed amongst the unemployed in your district should entitle the holders to buy other provisions besides bread and milk, according to their tastes. But as to whether tea, sugar, and butter are more satisfying than bread and milk, we should say certainly not.

"DAN" (Bucks).—We already devote far more space than any similar publication (if there be such a thing) to answers to correspondents. It is possible to have too much of a good thing.

J. J. L. (Enniskillen) airs the grievances of civilian writers at military out stations. The wages are insufficient, there is no prospect of promotion, and a grumbler becomes a marked man. There is an Association of Writers at Woolwich Arsenal, which includes writers at out stations, but the only thing done with the subscriptions is to provide an annual dinner to the higher administrative officers. When a writer has obtained an increase of pay by long service, he is discharged to make room for novices because they are cheaper. We do not venture to offer an opinion.

MRS. D. (Hornsey).—We confess we have not been shocked by any picture postcards sold in this country, and we think the police are quite capable of checking impropriety.

H. L. (Ruabon) asks if divers can go to a depth of two miles. He ought to be a member of the U.S. Senate and live in a water-tight cell.

"FAIR PLAY" (Belfast) sends a long rigmarole on labour questions. We do not follow the argument that, when wages are raised 25 per cent., the price of goods must also be raised 25 per cent. Labour is not the only expense of manufacture.

R. W. S. (Devonport).—We agree that livery companies spend too much on feasting, but how are we to teach them to be sensible?

"A TYPE" (Islington) does not think it fair that a soliciter's typing office should have no half-holiday, when a law typing office next door does so under the Shops Act. Lawyers, like other devils, evidently look after their own.

J. H. A. (Montreal) is doing all right out there now, but says there are plenty who are not. Evidently, grit is useful, even in Canada.

J. P. L. (Liverpool) wants to become a prison warder. What an ambition!

"AN OLD READER" (Gosport) says the Cosham trams are overcrowded on Sunday nights, and he thinks this is dangerous, as Portsdown Hill is steep.

"RUBBER" (Normanton) asks us whether it is a fact that the Prudential Assurance Company is to be "an approved Society" under the Insurance Act. We believe that they have up to the present hoodwinked Mr. Lloyd George, but after our exposure this week we doubt whether *anyone* will approve them.

B. L. S. (Johannesburg) says party politics out there are as dishonest a game as at home. That sounds almost libellous.

"X." (Sandy).—Whist drives do not come under the Truck Act, and shop employées are not usually compelled to have any truck with them.

"MAC."—How appropriate that the generous advertising drapers should live in Free Street, Bradford! Glad they did not make a freehold of you.

"ONE WHO FEELS FOR OTHERS" complains of a parson who gabbled the prayers at a funeral service. But most parsons do.

"A VICTIM" (Wolverhampton) complains of overcharging by the railway for consignments of fish. They do not seem to have any regular rates, but make absurd demands just as the fancy takes them.

"PRACTICAL ENGINEER" (Barnsley) writes:—"In my opinion as a Humanitian, the loss of the *Titanic* is a judgment on these bloated, arrogant, money-grabbing slave-drivers, the millionaires." But what about the women and children?

"HELP ONEANOTHER" says the L.C.C. tram-men are being sweated.

"A MARINE ENGINEER" wants special commendation for the engineering staff on the *Titanic*, as without them the electric light would have gone out, and absolute chaos reigned.

"PREVENTION" says the Belle steamers were overcrowded last summer and insufficiently provided with boats. They all were.

G. M. L. (Yeovil).—We do not understand the regulation at the public baths that "each gentleman must be accompanied by either his mother, sister, wife or daughter." What excessive chaperonage!

L. d. l. C. (Thornton Heath) thinks greater safeguards are needed on tramp steamers.

G. H. G. (Hendon).—We appreciate your kind intention, but did not know we were "fighting against men in privaliged positions abusing their enormous power to crush the weak." Are we then weak? We agree that lawyers are often liars, but we do not quite like the rhyme, liars-quires.

"ONE ON THE SPOT" (Perth, W. Australia) sends a very discouraging account of attempts to earn money in the bush. Emigration agents appear to be very dishonest.

R. H. J. (Staines) asks, "Did you ever see a fish with a vertical pointed nose? Did you ever see a water fowl with a vertical pointed breast?" The answer is in the negative, but what says Senator Smith?

P. G. (St. Pancras) has invented a life-belt, which sounds ingenious, but it would not be very useful in icy water.

F. W. (Regent's Park) writes:—"What were horses and donkeys made for if not to torture? Why, you only have to walk on the road and streets anywhere and you see it before your eyes. Keep your eyes open this or any other brialing summer." Very well.

R. C. (Salisbury Square) wonders "how any one who has owned a horse and has entered his box and felt a soft nose feeling round for carrots, can think calmly of the misery that pit ponies must suffer."

H. R. (Wandsworth) saw a man being arrested, and asked why. The police at once arrested him on a charge of obstruction, and the magistrate who fined him called him a busybody. Well, we should be busybodies, too, if we witnessed injustice.

W. F. H. (Gateshead) says some of the local doctors use dirty, second-hand bottles for medicine.

J. B. (Glasgow) writes:—"The vice of Glasgow is exactly the same as the vice of any English city. We shall be only too glad if you will take the loan of Sir Samuel Chisholm. You need not return." But what shall we do with him?

"GLASGOVIAN" calls our Scotch "Cockney ignorance and impertinence." We must evidently mix Irish with our soda in future.

"AFRICANUS" is down on theorists who said the *Titanic* was unsinkable. He says theorists "can expatiate upon the chemical action of hydrochloric acid on zinc, but could not mend a tin kettle; they will tell people how to garden and cannot use a spade." Yes, and most of them are Party politicians.

A. F. (Winchfield) says footmen are badly paid. When he applied for a situation, he was asked if he expected beer. He said "No," and was told "If you did, you wouldn't get it." How very tantalising!

L. N. D. G. (Cannon Street) thinks underwriters should fix the course and speed of a ship. But would they not be unduly cautious?

J. W. L. (Sheffield) is willing to stand in front of motor-'buses if they are provided with life-guards. That does not sound very amusing.

B. B. (Beira).—Sorry we are not a Portuguese Court of Appeal. Otherwise we should be delighted to help you with your litigation.

"PATRIOT" asks, "If it was not necessary to provide boats for everybody, why was it necessary to provide boats for anybody?" But surely it was just as well to save a few lives.

A. V. T. (Bristol) says musicians on liners only get £4 a month, though £8 a month is paid to the agents who provide them. They ought to be drowned.

L. C. (Chelsea) wants to know the width of the Thames at Hungerford Bridge. We will run down and measure it.

L. L. (Toronto) writes:—"My advice to the boys coming out is, 'Do as you are told without question.'" But suppose somebody told them to do something wrong?

T. D. (Newcastle) asks "If the Gulf Stream were to be taken from England, what effect would it have on the climate?" We will ask Senator Smith.

"CONSTANT READER" (Winnipeg) is paying £2 3s. 9d. per ton for coal, one-third of which is composed of slate, stone and dirt. And we still hear of people emigrating to Canada!

"EAST ANGLIA" wants to know why merchants raise the price of coal as soon as a strike is imminent. In order to make a bigger profit, we suppose.

A. L. (Cardiff) protests against cats being poisoned and left to die in agony. But how are *we* to prevent it?

Will any reader who witnessed an accident in the Brixton Road, close to Gresham Road, on the night of Thursday, April 4th, between an old lady and a motor cycle ridden by two men, kindly communicate with this office?

MRS. G. complains of a place called Moose Jaw, Canada, where water costs 6s. 3d. for 80 pails. She says most of the English there would like to come home if they could afford to do so. That is by no means a new experience in Canada.

E.M. (Lambeth) sends us a very intelligent forecast of our Queen's Hall speech—which will save us the trouble of having to think it out.

T. W. says he has been insulted by the Aberdeen police. Shall we send Jim Crow to investigate?

L. L. (Bayswater).—Any decent person would pull up a car after running over a dog. Don't be afraid to accept a sheep-dog puppy. It will have more lives than any cat.

[We are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—See page 610.

A MOST WONDERFUL BRAIN FOOD & NERVE TONIC

1/1½ Per Tube.

Post Free in the United Kingdom.

Brainine

2/9 Per Tube.

This size contains three times the quantity.

DO NOT GROW OLD!

Young men show signs of age much earlier than in the good old days. The eye grows dim, the air dejected, and steps falter because of the wear and tear of these strenuous days. The race of modern life is producing neurotic men and women in every sphere. Hair is whitening, faces harden, and the nervous system becomes a wreck.

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B-rainine R-echarges A-ll I-mpaired N-erves, I-mparting N-ew E-nergy.

Free from strychnine or any other poisonous drug. Goes straight to the Brain. It is the need of every worker, and is invaluable to all sufferers from Sleeplessness, Brain fag and worry; the friend of every household.

1/1½ *Brainine* 2/9

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DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"Improper Peter."

Mr. Monckton Hoffe does not supply much acting material for anyone in particular in his new play at the Garrick Theatre, but "Improper Peter," taken as a whole, is a very bright and enjoyable little play. There is opportunity here and there for small thumb-nail sketches, as George Mozart calls them, such as the fussy old gentleman impersonated by Fred Kerr, the handsome, but if looks mean anything, wickedly scheming wife, acted for all she is worth by the beautiful Saba Raleigh, and Elliot Hay, the American, so realistically portrayed by James Carew. Why, though; Peter Everest's better half should turn up on his yacht just at the precise moment when the "Improper" one is doing his friend a good turn, is just one of those conventional trifles that is inevitable, I suppose. But come aboard Flora Everest does, and in a melodramatic fashion she bids her husband's factotum "stand aside," and she goes down the companion ladder to find Peter having breakfast with the innocent maiden "Periwinkle." "For six long years I have waited for this," hisses Flora, and Arthur Bourchier's simple explanation only appears to make matters worse. The plot thickens. Not one of Peter's friends can help him out; their well-meant "talk" merely aggravates matters. The climax is reached when to prove that not Bourchier, but Sleath, the silent coward, is the man who has wronged "Periwinkle," and got her in this *impasse*, "Charles" wrenches a locket from the girl's neck, when lo and behold the portrait it contains is of "Improper Peter," and not of him. At this juncture James Carew's emphatic exclamation of "Oh, hell!" might come in with stronger effect than it does, for Mrs. Raleigh declares she will show no mercy to poor "Periwinkle," that she will sue for a divorce, and Peter will have to abandon his parliamentary career. There is no alternative. Periwinkle agrees to make an honest man of Peter when the time arrives, and the Plaintiff makes a scornful exit, assuring everybody that there is nothing more to say beyond the fact that she has a most important engagement to keep with her dressmaker. Some of the lines in Mr. Hoffe's comedy are enormously clever, and the neatly trimmed yacht is about as real a one as I have ever seen. "Improper Peter" is preceded by that unrivalled storyteller, Miss Helen Mar, who keeps the people laughing for fully twenty minutes—something to accomplish nowadays in these hours of strikes and terrible calamities.

Music Halls.

I cannot help thinking that two or three of the variety houses are "going it" a little too seriously. The halls do stupendous business when they stick to their own clever turns, but these condensed versions of plays and operas will do serious harm to managements who introduce them, I feel sure, in the long run. Mr. Alfred Butt, of the Palace Theatre, had one venture at "The Geisha," but he whipped it off quickly. He knew well enough his audiences didn't approve of it, and he was right. Why, only the other evening I laughingly told a controller of one of these huge establishments that I had seen him applauding his own show. "That's true enough," he replied, "for I thought if I did not, nobody else would." I firmly believe in the half-hour or twenty minutes sketch if it is very comic, or very dramatic, but there is no "between" for the halls. For instance, the "Scrooge" playlet, with Seymour Hicks in the name part, grips the people in a vice at the Coliseum, but, on the other hand, "Six People", a gossamer comedy act, by Israel Zangwill, butts into nothing. It doesn't affect the stalls, interest the circle, or entertain anybody in particular. It is essentially written for a small playhouse, and doesn't travel beyond the first few rows of the great halls built nowadays. Mr. Bert Harrow is a young comedian who will become a tremendous favourite in an exceedingly short space of time. His style is admirable, his humour tickles you till your sides ache with laughing, and his patter is excellent. Miss Constance Drever is topping the bill this week at the Coliseum in an "Incident with Music," by Harry Grattan, together with Seymour Hicks in the Dickens' Christmas Carol adaptation. I don't mean that Miss Drever and Mr. Hicks appear *ensemble*, but they both head the Stoll programme, which is of the very best, as indeed it invariably is.

A Working Housewife

Nervous Depression, Neuralgia, Sleeplessness—

A cheerful, bright way of looking at things, a brisk activity which easily enables her to do almost as much as two ordinary persons, are some of the *immediate benefits* Mrs Parker derived from Phosferine. Like most hard-working mothers, Mrs. Parker never found time to look after herself, and, as is always the case, suddenly broke down under the strain of endless household activities. Sudden noises caused her to tremble in feeble distress, gloomy fears assailed her, neuralgia and sleeplessness tortured her nerves relentlessly, and it was from this depth of misery that Phosferine raised Mrs. Parker. That this immediate effect was achieved by *two doses* of Phosferine, and Mrs. Parker's cure *made permanent* by a continuance of the tonic, demonstrates that, with the aid of Phosferine, any husband can save his wife from innumerable distresses.

Positively Cured and Prevented.

Mrs. A. Parker, 3, Linden Grove, Nunhead, writes:—"I got into a fearfully low, nervous state through working too hard and overtaxing my strength. Any loud noise or sharp knock at the door would throw me into a state of trembling and helplessness. I was always imagining all kinds of evil, and worrying about trifles Neuralgia racked me with pain day and night, and prevented me from obtaining any rest. I got so worn and dejected that I could have cried, out of sheer misery. My husband persuaded me at last to take Phosferine, and the effect was simply marvellous; the pains not only ceased, but *I have had no return since*. It seems more like magic than anything else that a few drops of Phosferine could produce such a change. I kept on with it, and I began to gain strength; the neuralgia disappeared for good, the nervousness, dejection, and worry left me, and now I feel quite well."—Nov. 17, 1911.

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GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

NEURALGIA	MATERNITY WEAKNESS	HYSTERIA
RHEUMATISM	NERVOUS HEADACHES	SLEEPLESSNESS
BRAIN-FAG	PREMATURE DECAY	EXHAUSTION
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And all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

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Mr. W. H., of North Holmwood, writes: "Last winter I was afflicted with horrid itching pimples that kept me constantly scratching to obtain a moment's relief. I tried many preparations and went to a doctor, but nothing did me any good. I then went to various chemists and tried their remedies, but without result. For eight consecutive nights I had no sleep, for the heat of the bed seemed to intensify the terrible irritation. I sent for a sample of Antexema; found a slight improvement, and then purchased the treatment, and before I had used up a second supply, I was completely cured, and able to sleep comfortably."

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NAME ..... ADDRESS.....

The probable starters and jockeys for the Jubilee Handicap, run at Kempton on Saturday, May 11th, will be found in any sporting paper.
This order must be posted no later than SATURDAY MORNING, 12 noon, MAY 11th, together with Postal Order value 1/6, to—

J.B. CIGARETTE CO., 17. GOSCHEN BLDGS., HENRIETTA ST., LONDON. Additional orders and selections may be written on plain paper

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.
["*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, "*Double U. L.*" *of* Lotinga's Weekly, *and* "*Maggie*" *of* The Globe.]

Better Handicapping.

The fact that so many horses keep on winning under a nominal penalty revives the old question relative to a handicapper retaining the right to re-handicap horses which win prior to the race being run. This is done under athletic laws, so why not in racing?

Prophetic.

Almost too quickly upon Guineas Week, two of the most important amongst Spring Handicaps—in fact, the last of the bunch—are decided during the present period, but the Jubilee is in an all-round sense immeasurably more important than the Chester Cup. Saturday's big race is fairly open, bringing into conflict the Lincoln Handicap and the City and Suburban form as represented by the respective seconds, Uncle Pat and Lonawand. Sir Martin, Whisk Broom, Protestant Boy and a few others will be fancied, but I hold a very emphatic opinion, especially upon this course, and after the improvement which the big horse must have made since Lincoln, that the race is a *real* snip for

Uncle Pat,

who forms the "good thing" of the week, and should be supported, win and place. The only other event upon which I would suggest wagering at Kempton is the sprint handicap on Friday, in which whatever beats

Pitmaston,

who will be at a long price, must be the winner. Prior to Kempton, the Chester meeting will be finished to-day (Thursday), when Ormus has a big chance in the Combermere Handicap, and Pickmore must go close for the Great Cheshire Handicap.

OUR £2,000 FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

The Consolation Prize of £25 in our Football Forecast I. Competition has been awarded to

Mr. Chas. Moody, 34, Empress Gate, West Kensington, who was successful in predicting 17 winners out of 20 matches played on April 27th; while

Mr. E. Carrington, 26, Clevedon Road, Kingston, has been awarded the prize in the Three Results No. 17 Competition—he having given all the correct winning teams, with the actual scores in four instances.

Complaints have reached us concerning the business methods of Mr. Rufus Webb, of 26, Sackville Street, London, who advertises himself as a reliable turf commission agent. It would appear, from information received, that the firm now trading under the name of Mr. Rufus Webb does not always pay up. We are further informed that the firm continues to advertise on its business paper a recommendation of John Bull, which says, "Your money is safe if you win." We wish to warn our readers that this recommendation does not apply to the present firm, nor to the people who now carry on the business, and who in the month of February of this year were posted as defaulters by the Turf Guardian Society. Our recommendation was given some years ago to highly respectable people, who conducted their business upon honourable lines, and we wish to dissociate ourselves from the present firm.

JOHN McLAUCHLAN,
TURF ACCOUNTANT,
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THE SPORTSMAN, 1911, says:—"BERT FRY, one of the best known of the Flushing Turf Accountants, has removed his offices to Bale, Switzerland."

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Some Type-setting Machines.

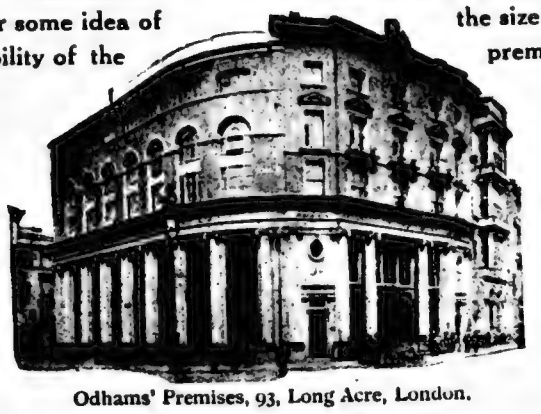
Type-making Machinery.

THE reader of this journal is usually too much interested in the contents of his paper to think about the means by which those contents are brought to him and to his many thousand fellow-readers week by week. Of course, he knows the views of the editor well enough, and sees that a good deal of labour must have been expended on the gathering together of the news, but there his interest stops.

Now and again it may be well to look further—beyond the editorial department into the mechanical means by which the written word is multiplied tens and hundreds of thousands of times, and distributed throughout the length and breadth of the land, not only through the medium of the Post Office, but through the large wholesale distributor, working down through the small retail shopkeeper in town and village.

Our best testimonial to the worth of Messrs. Odhams Limited is found in the fact that the proprietors of this journal entrust the care of their paper to this firm, whose premises are situated in Long Acre, London, at the junction of Bow Street and Endell Street, within a stone's throw of the Royal Opera House and Covent Garden Market, for the tide of newspaperdom has for many years set westward, and there is no sign of its turning.

The illustrations on this and other pages give the reader some idea of the size and capability of the premises.

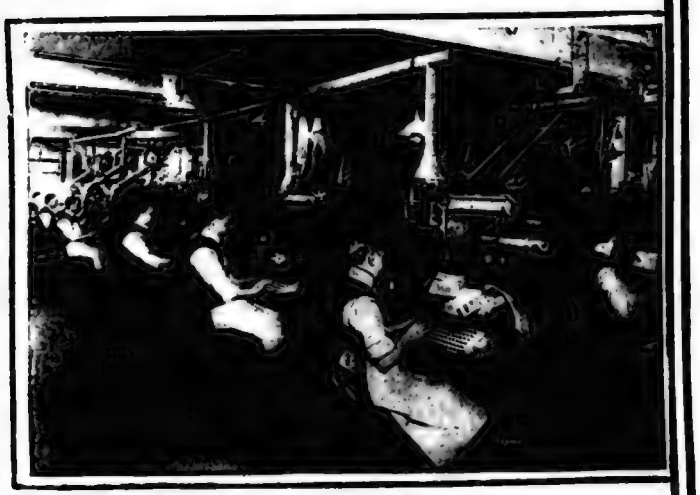


Odhams' Premises, 93, Long Acre, London.

Supplement to JOHN BULL, May

The Counting House.

A Composing Machine.



More Type-setting Machines.

IN the old days—say in the early 'fifties — nearly every weekly newspaper — and it is of weekly journals we especially treat—had its own separate printer and printing office, the former sometimes merely the servant of the newspaper proprietor, and not an independent contractor. The printing office would consist very often of two or three rooms at the top of a house built for private purposes, with the dividing walls knocked down to form a composing-room. On account of the weight of type it was not unusual to have columns running from basement to roof to support the top-heavy building. The machining was either done in the cellar—it had hardly attained to the dignity of the name of "machine-room"—or the formes of type were sent out to some neighbouring printer, with sufficient machinery at command, for him to work them off. The papers were seldom cut or even folded, the sheets being delivered flat to the wholesaler, who sent them in bulk to the retailer to fold at his shop or bookstall. Obviously this scheme of things involved much waste, for men could not be kept going all the week evenly, when, as everyone knows, news is apt to distribute itself unevenly. Trades Unions had not yet safeguarded their members against waste of time, and hardly taught them to charge for overtime; with the granting of these demands the day of the printer for one small weekly hastened to its close.

In the old days the printer was personally identified with the journal he printed, and the principles for which

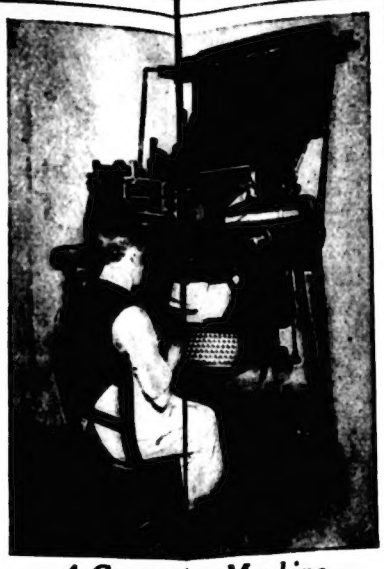
The General Manager's Room.

Art Printing Machines.

36,000 copies per hour—printed, folded and stitched.

The Foundry.

A Corner of the Engineers' Shop.



A Composing Machine.

Folding and Binding.

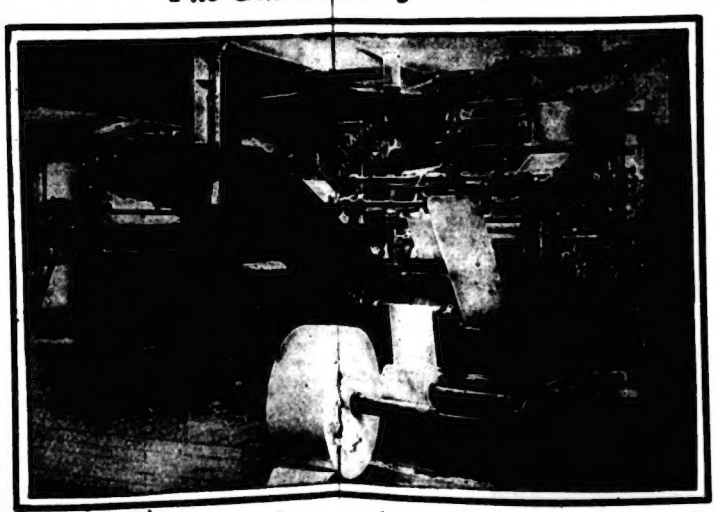
The General Manager's Room.

it stood; to-day, while something of the old sentiment lingers, he is in fact as detached as any other wholesaler dealing in sundry wares—as detached, say, as Messrs. W. H. Smith and Messrs. Wymans from the newspapers they distribute; much more aloof than the barrister who undertakes, for a consideration, to espouse his client's cause in a temporary union.

It was in conditions such as we have sketched that what has grown into the firm of Odhams Limited took root. The printer of *The Guardian*, the late Mr. William Odhams, seeing the advantage of having a week-end as well as a mid-week paper, *The Railway Times* was added. Each paper represented an important development in matters of vast interest—*The Guardian* treating of the many theological issues raised by the Oxford Movement; *The Railway Times* dealing with the enormous impetus given to trade and commerce by that new means of swift locomotion, the railway, its pages re-echoing the fierce contentions of the warriors fighting in Parliament over the competing claims of new railways then being brought forward in every direction.

For some forty years the business was carried on in two large top floors and a basement at Burleigh Street, Strand, but in 1894 additional premises were taken in Floral Street, Covent Garden, and the story of the following years is simply one of continuous growth, until in 1905 the present commanding position in Long Acre was acquired and the business of Southwood, Smith & Co. brought under the same roof.

Wire-stitching Machines.

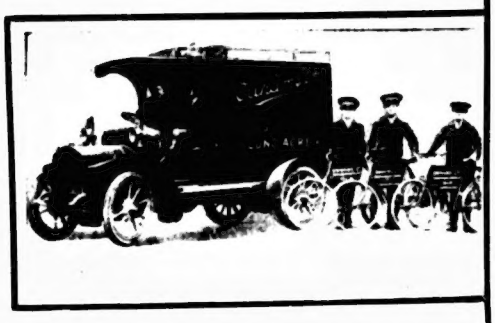


36,000 copies per hour—printed, folded and stitched.

Trimming the Edges.

A Corner of the Engineers' Shop.

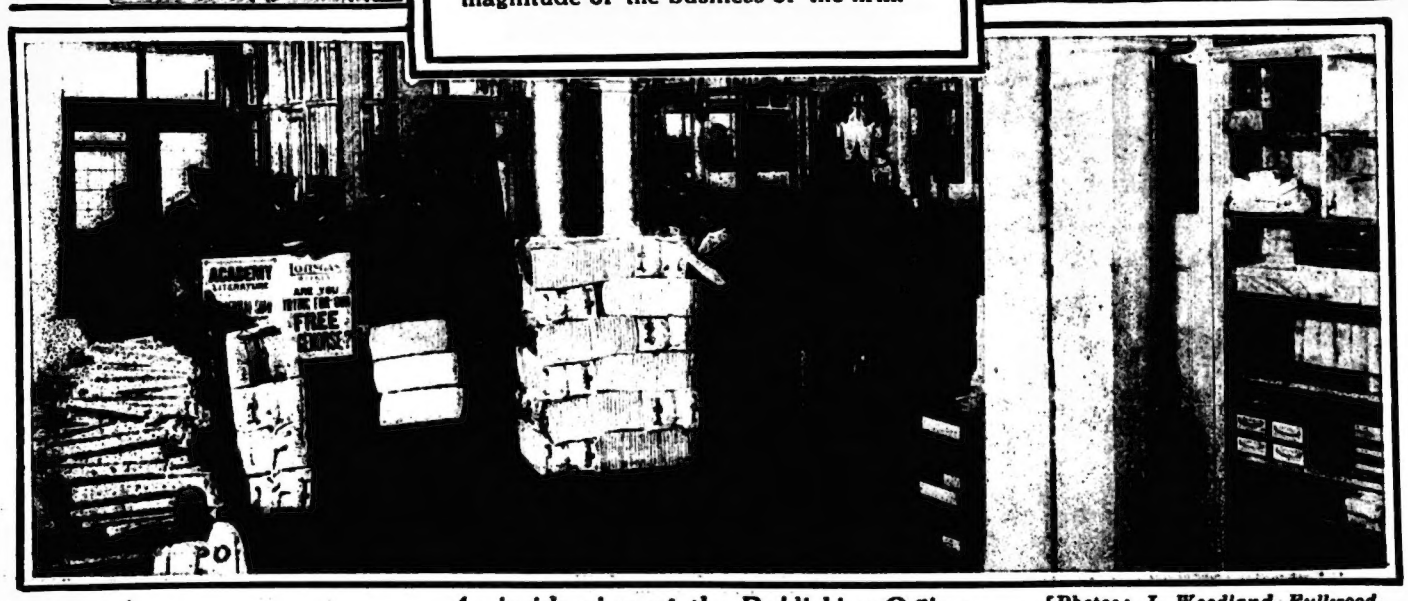
A Machine Room.



The Publishing Offices.

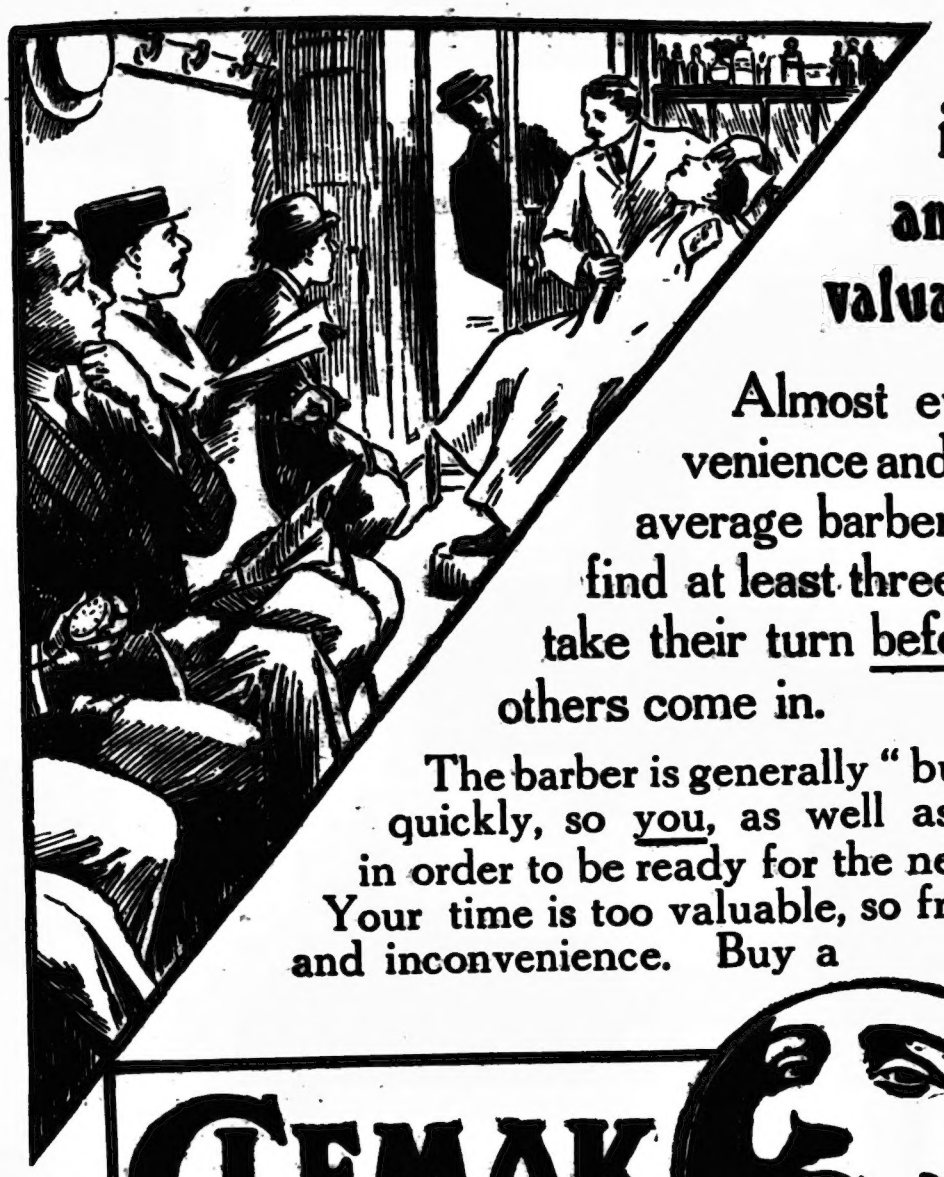
READING the lesson taught by the extinction of the individual printer, Messrs. Odhams recognised the fact that the existing system of having a separate publishing department for each newspaper was as wasteful and as inefficient as had been the separate printing-office in the old days. Except in the case of very large weekly papers it is impossible for the journal to be individually properly pushed and its interests represented throughout the length and breadth of the land, the expenses of travellers being far too great to be borne by the average weekly newspaper. One step more and Messrs. Odhams were in a position to say that they could manage the entire business side of a newspaper for the proprietors. This step consisted in arranging for the supply of advertisement representatives and the superintendence of their work. The importance of these last two departments—the publishing and the advertising—cannot be over-estimated, because they are the money-getting departments, and their results have to pay editors and sub-editors, printing, paper, all office expenses, and finally, and not least important, the dividends for those whose money has been put into the newspaper venture.

The above facsimile reproductions of some of the publications printed by Messrs. Odhams give an idea of the magnitude of the business of the firm.



An inside view of the Publishing Offices. [*Photos: J. Woodland Fullwood.*

For prospectus see our advertisement pages.



"Waiting to be Shaved" is a perpetual source of annoyance and waste of valuable time.

Almost every man knows the inconvenience and discomfort of a shave at the average barber's. Nine times out of ten you find at least three or four other "waiters" to take their turn before you—and while you wait, others come in.

The barber is generally "busy"—He must get his work done quickly, so you, as well as others are "rushed" through in order to be ready for the next.

Your time is too valuable, so free yourself from all this trouble and inconvenience. Buy a

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

and shave in comfort throughout your life. The CLEMAK has established its reputation amongst shaving men who, having tried other razors, find that irrespective of price the CLEMAK is the best.—It gives a clean, close, comfortable shave every time.—Prove our statement—Buy one to-day.

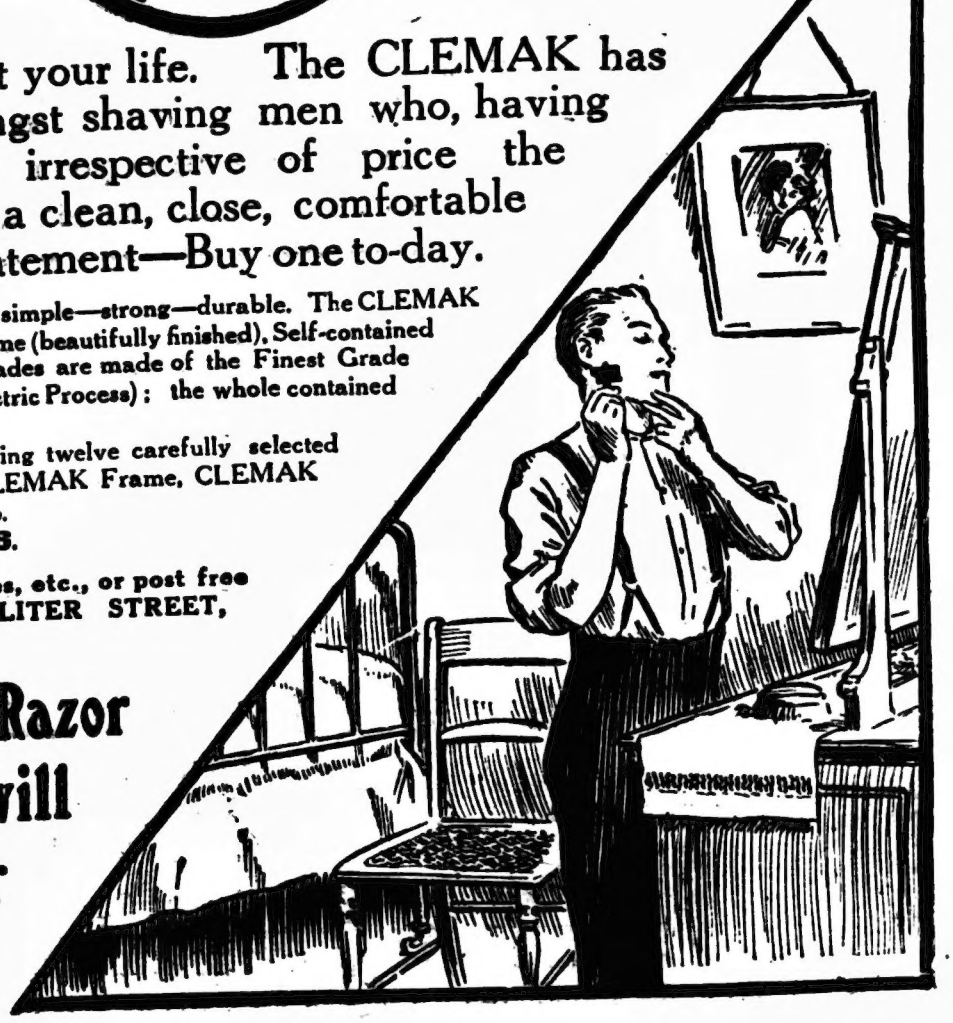
The CLEMAK Safety Razor is BRITISH MADE—simple—strong—durable. The CLEMAK Complete 5/- Outfit consists of Triple Silver-Plated Frame (beautifully finished), Self-contained Stropping Handle, and Seven Perfect Blades (these blades are made of the Finest Grade Sheffield Steel, hardened and tempered by a Special Electric Process): the whole contained in a case, size 2 ins. by 3¼ ins.

We also make a specially finished case containing twelve carefully selected CLEMAK Blades, an extra heavily silver-plated CLEMAK Frame, CLEMAK Stropping Machine, and a superior Velvet Hide Strop.

Price Complete 10/6.

Obtainable from Cutlers, Ironmongers, Stores, etc., or post free direct from CLEMAK RAZOR CO., 17, BILLITER STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Buy a CLEMAK Safety Razor To-Day — and it will prove your friend for life.



"By FAR the Greatest Turf Accountant in the World."—
SPORTING LIFE.

SMILING JIM: "Hello! What's the matter? You look as miserable as a wet Bank Holiday."

LONGFACE JOE: "'Nough to make me. Had a ten pound note, and wanted a shave. Had the Dickens own job to get it changed. Took it to the Bank, and they wanted to know who I was? What I was? Thought they were going to ask to see my birthmarks."

SMILING JIM: "Moral, me boy. Carry Duggie's Cheques. Easier to change than Bank-notes. I got a Cheque from Duggie yesterday morning, sent on from home to Newcastle, for fifty of the best. Walked into the local branch of Duggie's Bank, and laid his cheque on the counter. All they said was 'Notes or Gold?' and handed me over five of the crispest and £25 in gold. That's easy, isn't it?"

LONGFACE JOE: "Yes. But WHAT a bank balance he must have, eh?"

THE LATEST PRESS COMMENT ON DOUGLAS STUART.

"In looking about for the right sort of commission agent, I should select Mr. Douglas Stuart. He deals in a big way, not in the sense that he will not accept modest business, but that he has a large and ever-growing *clientele*. It has not yet been my good fortune to pull off a double with him, but I live in good hopes. And when that happy day dawns, I shall have no anxiety as to duly receiving my reward, not only promptly, but with 'compliments' such as are not usually associated with the emotions of paying out."—TATLER, May 1st, 1912.

DOUGLAS STUART

LIESTAL, SWITZERLAND.

"NO LIMIT" to Place Commissions when Favourite starts "Odds on."

☛ **PRIVACY.** Letters or Wires may be signed with a "Nom de Plume," and Winning Cheques do not bear the name of Douglas Stuart.

☛ **RELIABILITY.** Whatever amount you win, you will receive without fuss. Remember £10,000 to £10 paid last year.

☛ **FACILITY.** Clients may wire up to £25 each way, by arrangement, from the Course, up to the time of "Off."

☛ **FUTURE EVENTS.** Fullest "Sporting Life" prices guaranteed. Prices ruling when Instructions are Postmarked will be laid in full.

1912 RULES ABSOLUTELY PREVENT LOSS TO CLIENTS BY ERRORS IN OR NON-DELIVERY OF TELEGRAMS.

Send a Deposit for any amount to

LIESTAL, SWITZERLAND.

SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR WIRING } for daily **S.P.**

NO LIMIT, Starting Price or Future Events

SYSTEM SPECIALIST with no Commission.
FULL MARKET PRICES GUARANTEED as ruling when Letter is Postmarked.
No "Price Unobtainable" Circular ever issued.

NO LIMIT

FOR CREDIT ACCOUNTS

APPLY TO

102-104, NEW OXFORD ST., LONDON.

Telegrams: "Toadstone, London." 'Phone: Gerrard 1036 (Private Branch Exchange).

NO LIMIT

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Also Imperial News Co., Ltd., Canada.
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